

kiron

Short Concept.

Kiron in a nutshell

Kiron Open Higher Education (gGmbH) is a non-profit organization founded in 2015 with a mission to remove the barriers refugees face in accessing higher education. Through an innovative model of blended learning, Kiron offers tailor-made curricula of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) through renowned educational platforms like coursera and edx so that refugees can start studying, regardless of their asylum status. Courses are mostly provided in English, completely free of charge for the students and all accessible via our learning platform Kiron Campus. Through strong partnerships with accredited universities worldwide, students have the opportunity to finish their program with a regular bachelor's degree.

As an overall goal, Kiron aims at fostering integration in host countries and creates long-term perspectives for displaced people. Therefore, the course curriculum is embedded in an ecosystem of support services, centered around the student's needs. Among others, this includes a language school, buddy- and mentoring programs and a career service as well as physical Study Hubs run by local groups and partners where students can meet and use hardware and internet connectivity. Kiron is financed through grants, donations and sponsorships by foundations, the private as well as the corporate sector.



Problems students are facing

The UNHCR identified four main obstacles regarding the access to higher education for refugees in its Education Strategy 2012-2016:



Costs



Legal



College capacity



Language

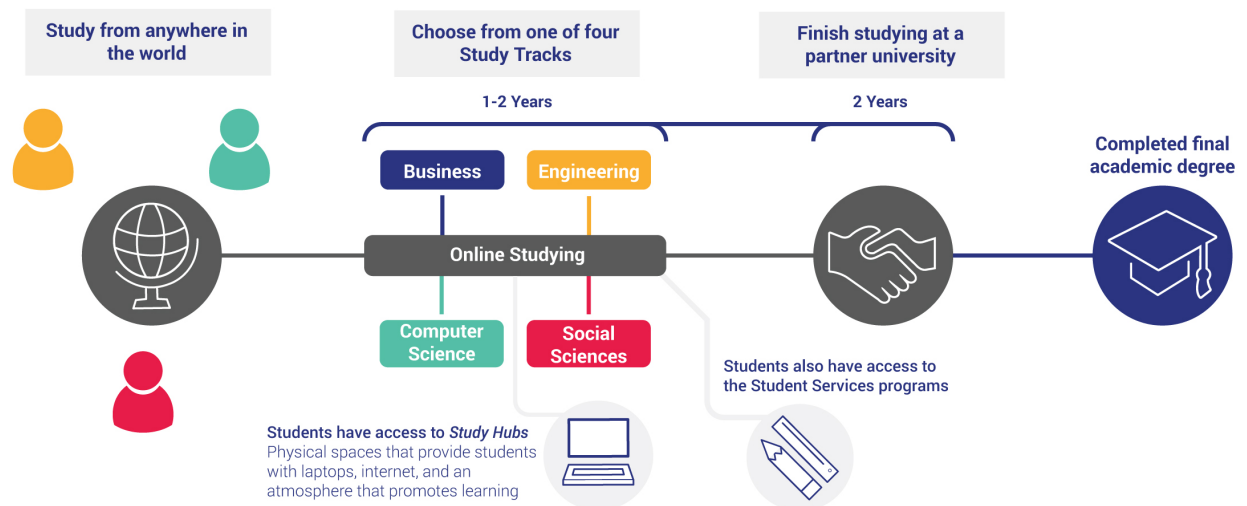
Due to these challenges the educational potential of millions of refugees worldwide is diminished and high integration costs are incurred by for the receiving countries.

The Kiron Solution

Kiron believes that the future of higher education is Blended Learning: the target-oriented combination of online and off-line education. We bridge the gap between refugees arriving in the host country, waiting for their asylum to be granted, learning their host country's language and going to University. Kiron provides direct access to higher education through latest educational technology and offers degree programs consisting of an online study phase of 1-2 years followed

by another 1-2 years at a partner university. During their online studies Kiron students complete Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) developed by leading universities such as Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and RWTH Aachen. The courses are being accredited by the partner university eventually and result in a regular bachelor's degree.

Four study tracks are being offered so far: Business & Economics, Social Sciences, Engineering and Computer Sciences



What drives us - Our Mission

Kiron follows the strong belief that education is key to alleviating the world's most critical issues. We want to implement a model through which refugees, regardless of their legal status, their location, and their social background, have access to higher education. Kiron empowers refugees to live a self-determined life by empowering them to study. It is our goal to not only enable students to access the local and international

labour market, but also provide the assets necessary for social integration at large. In order to scale this solution and make it available to a large population we follow a holistic approach of combining existing resources through strong partnerships and establishing synergies between the relevant stakeholders.

How does Kiron support its students?

While the course content of Kiron as a global solution is entirely online based and available from anywhere in the world anytime, there is a strong need for local attachment and personal contact in order to enhance study success and social integration.

Therefore, the courses are embedded in a variety of student services:

1. Buddy Programme, Mentoring and Counseling
2. Career Service (job platform and scholarship support)
3. Help Desk (Students Advisory Service and contact point for general questions)
4. Direct Academics (technical advice and lecturing)
5. Language School (courses)
6. Study Hubs

We believe that an active exchange among students and a strong sense of community strengthen student's commitment and engagement. Therefore we actively encourage students to communicate with their peer students through an online forum. By enhancing the interaction between students and online instructors, our aim is to create a sustainable Kiron learning community.

Status quo and Vision

In October 2015, seven months after founding, the first 1,250 students started studying at Kiron and the next student intake has been enrolled in July 2016. The fast realization of the project was enabled not only through financial support by private donors, foundations and corporations, but particularly by a large number of highly engaged volunteers. Today, a team of 40 employees receives further support from about 400 volunteers worldwide and a competence pool consisting of experts from relevant fields, such as professors, psychologists and business specialists. While our online platform

Kiron Campus is available worldwide, we are in the process of rolling out our Student Services and academic Partnerships with a focus on Germany, France, Turkey and Jordan. Our headquarters are in Berlin and satellite offices are in Amman, Brussels, Boston, Istanbul, Munich and Paris. While Kiron is currently funded through sponsoring, donations and grants, a sustainable business model is planned to be implemented by 2018.