

## Information on the German Host Institution

# Combined Study and Practice Stays for Engineers from Developing Countries (KOSPIE) – Tunisia – 2026-2028

## 1. Name of the institution

**Hochschule Offenburg**



## 2. General information on the institution

### 2.1 Institution has been accredited by:

EVALAG [www.evalag.de](http://www.evalag.de)

### 2.2 Does your institution follow the Code of Conduct for exchange programmes?

Yes  No

### 2.3 Welcome programmes for exchange students:

- We have an experienced member of staff that supports students with finding suitable accommodation, before arriving to Hochschule Offenburg.
- We support incoming exchange students through our buddy programme, where experienced students support new incoming exchange students upon their arrival in Germany. Typical support includes picking up arrivals at the train station, helping with finding your way around in Offenburg, support with formalities.
- Additional support is of course provided by the International Center of Offenburg University. All our staff are fluent in English. In addition, each of the four departments has designated professors as contacts for international students.
- We provide a range of social activities to get to know other students as well as the area, such as excursions and fun events for all international students at Hochschule Offenburg.

## **2.4 Location of institution:**

Offenburg University has campuses in Offenburg and the nearby town of Gengenbach in southwestern Germany. The calm and peaceful Ortenau region is considered a «gateway to the Black Forest», yet is only short distances away from larger cities such as Karlsruhe, Freiburg, Strasbourg (France), and Basel (Switzerland), all within an hour from Offenburg by train.

Both Offenburg and Gengenbach offer safe and high-quality living and a comfortable climate, with pleasant summers and winter temperatures rarely dropping below zero degrees.

## **2.5 Special attractions for young people:**

- Black Forest and mountain range: The beautiful scenery right next to Offenburg is a very popular travel destination for hiking, mountain biking and other outdoor activities.

- Europa Park Rust: This popular theme park attracts visitors from all over the world with roller coaster rides, a water park and many exciting activities and events.



- City of Strasbourg: A mere 20 minute train ride away from Offenburg, Strasbourg provides all the shopping amenities, cultural facilities and entertainments of a major city. Looking for a break from Offenburg? Need a specific exotic ingredient for that special dish? Fancy an authentic French coffee or dinner? With Strasbourg being so close, this is always an option. The cathedral is also world famous and a popular tourist destination.



- Historic city centre of Gengenbach: Gengenbach is the location of our second campus, located in a beautiful former monastery with a chapel. Gengenbach is also visited by over one million of people a year and boasts a beautiful historic city center and many bijou cafés and shops.

- Visits to Heidelberg: Do you wish to travel the paths of Immanuel Kant or Max Weber? Visit one of the most famous and recognisable castle ruins in Europe? Enjoy the student night life of a city that is famous for its large student population? Heidelberg is always well worth a visit and easily reachable by train from Offenburg.



## 2.6 Costs of living (dorms etc.):

Item	Cost or comment
Average student dorm rent per month	Not available
Average rent in private housing	300-500 €/month
Semester contribution/fee	Not applicable, as participants are not enrolled as students.
Public transportation	365 €/year for a Deutschland Ticket (only available for students till the age of 27 and subscription for a whole year)  Optional; there is a range of public transportation tickets available, depending on choice. A lot of students prefer to travel by bike, as distances in Offenburg are not too far and there are many bicycle paths.
Average expenses	About 1000 €/month

## 3. Combined study and practice stays for engineers from developing countries (KOSPIE) – Tunisia

### 3.1 Faculties, institutes and potential supervisors participating in the exchange programme offered:

#### Faculty

Elektrotechnik, Medizintechnik und Informatik

#### Institutes & Chairs

Institute of Reliable Embedded Systems and Communication Electronics (ivESK)  
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Axel Sikora

Institute of Sustainable Energy Systems (INES)  
Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Michael Schmidt

Institute for Machine Learning and Analytics (IMLA)  
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stefan Hensel

## Field of research & Research topic

The topics listed below reflect the research priorities of the EMI faculty and the participating professors and institutes. The topics will be specified and updated for the respective calls for proposals:

### **IMLA, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stefan Hensel:**

- Development and application of machine vision algorithms, in particular with a focus on deep neural networks.
- Applications of robotic handling systems in combination with camera-based surface control.
- Development and application of algorithms for highly automated driving, in particular machine learning in the field of environment perception, multimodal data fusion and navigation.
- Mapping and localization of mobile robot systems using optical methods, with a focus on 3D laser scanners and camera systems

### **INES, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Michael Schmidt:**

- Final theses in connection with current research activities in the six research groups of the Institute for Sustainable Energy Systems (INES) at Offenburg University of Applied Sciences with a thematic focus on electromobility, process technology for photovoltaics and biomass, storage technologies, energy management and energy system analysis, energy-efficient building technologies, intelligent energy networks
- Development of energy management solutions for integrated energy systems and microgrids (grid-connected and island operation); provision of energy flexibility; grid simulations

### **ivESK, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Axel Sikora:**

- IoT-Security: Architectures, systems and applications for the secure Internet of Things (IoT), in particular for adaptive and self-learning processes using machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI)
- 6G: Test solutions for real-time capable, data-secure and reliable IoT systems, especially with regard to 6G systems

## Capacity (max. no. of scholarship holders)

6



**3.2 Students of the following degree courses may join the exchange programme:**

Electrical Engineering  
Electrical Energy Engineering  
Microelectronics  
Computer Engineering

**3.3 Tuition/semester fees (if applicable):**

Yes  No

Program participants will not be matriculated but be listed as guest researchers in order to prevent tuition fees.

**3.4 Near-by companies with which co-operations are withheld:**

The region of Offenburg University, "Wirtschaftsregion Ortenau", is well-known for many innovative and world-leading companies such as Duravit AG (sanitary products), Europa-Park GmbH & Co Mack KG (theme park), Hansgrohe SE (sanitary products), Herrenknecht AG (tunnelling machinery), Hubert Burda Media (publishing), Leitwerk AG (IT and server solutions), Otto Nußbaum GmbH & Co. KG (equipment for garages and vehicle maintenance), Papierfabrik August Koehler AG (paper products), Philipp Kirsch GmbH, Zehnder GmbH (heating and ventilation systems) and many more "hidden champions".

**3.5 Established partnerships with the following Tunisian higher education institutions and faculties (if applicable):**

The Institute for Reliable Embedded Systems and Communication Electronics (ivESK) – the lead institution for this application – has very successfully looked after annual projects together with the École Nationale des Sciences de L'Informatique (ENSI) in the DAAD programme "German- Arab Short Measures with Partner Universities in Tunisia" since 2016. In particular, students from ENSI were also regularly at ivESK and produced their final theses (Projets Fin d'Etudes, PFE) there – guided by research and oriented towards applications – with consistently above-average results. Currently, three of these alumni are working as research assistants in the ivESK team. In addition, the lead applicant, Prof. Dr. Sikora, has also accompanied numerous other activities at other universities in Tunisia (reviewer & examiner for PhD at Sup'Comm, exchange with ENIT, keynote lecture at IPEN2020 at the University of Sousse and others).

**3.6 Interest in exchange with the following Tunisian higher education institutions (please specify faculties, if applicable):**

Further collaborations would be interesting for all stakeholders of the application. The faculties are identical with the programs mentioned at (3.2)

**3.7 Further remarks or special services (e.g. about the housing situation):**

N/A



## **4. Responsible contact person(s)**

### **4.1 Contact person at university-level and/or at faculty level**

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### **4.2 Contact person student coordinator/advisor**

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