

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

Student Exchange Program – Master's & PhD Level

Focus: Energy Systems | Renewable Energy | Energy-Efficient Buildings

Host: TH Köln, Germany | Duration: 3 Months | Funding: DAAD Hi-Nepal Project

1. BACKGROUND

This TOR governs the 3-month student exchange under the DAAD-funded Hi-Nepal project at TH Köln. It targets Master's and PhD students from Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University for research in energy systems, renewable energy, and energy-efficient buildings. TH Köln provides labs, supervision, and an international research environment.

2. OBJECTIVES

- Provide advanced research exposure at TH Köln in the three focus areas.
- Strengthen Nepal–Germany academic collaboration under Hi-Nepal.
- Enhance technical competencies using modern research tools and methodologies.
- Mandatorily produce a peer-reviewed publication during the exchange period.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Academic

- Currently enrolled Master's (≥ 1 semester completed) or PhD student at a IOE, Tribhuvan University.
- Degree in Mechanical/Electrical/Civil Engineering, Architecture, Energy/Environmental Science or related field.

Other requirement

- Submit a 2,000-word research proposal aligned with Section 4.
- Valid passport; no conflicting scholarships.

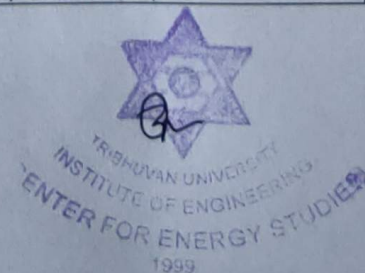
4. RESEARCH AREAS

- Energy Systems: smart grids, microgrids, energy storage, power system analysis, hybrid systems.
- Renewable Energy: solar PV/thermal, wind, hydro, bioenergy, geothermal, hybrid RE integration.
- Energy-Efficient Buildings: building energy modeling, passive design, HVAC optimization, net-zero buildings, BEMS.
- Cross-cutting: LCA, techno-economic analysis, climate resilience, digitalization/IoT in energy.

5. DURATION & TIMELINE

Strictly 3 consecutive months. No extensions permitted under current funding.

Phase	When	Activities
Orientation	Week 1	Arrival, registration, lab access, refine research plan
Research	Weeks 2–8	Literature review, experiments, simulations, data collection
Analysis & Writing	Weeks 9–11	Data analysis, draft manuscript, supervisor review
Submission & Wrap-up	Week 12	Submit publication, final report, presentation, departure



6. FUNDING (DAAD Hi-Nepal)

- Monthly living stipend (DAAD Germany rate, 934.00 €/month for master students, 1300.00 € for PhD students)
- Round-trip economy airfare Nepal ↔ Germany
- Health insurance for visa application, visa fees

Not covered: personal expenses, leisure travel, dependents, excess baggage.

7. MANDATORY PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT

ALL participants MUST submit at least ONE research publication during the 3-month period. This is non-negotiable and central to CES accountability.

Acceptable Outputs

- Journal Article: peer-reviewed (SCI/SCIE/Scopus preferred); minimum status 'Under Review' by Week 12.

Publication Rules

- Original research conducted at TH Köln during the exchange.
- Must include acknowledgment: 'This research was supported by the DAAD-funded Hi-Nepal project and conducted at TH Köln, Germany in collaboration with Center for Energy Studies.'
- Authorship agreed with TH Köln supervisor and CES supervisor before submission.

Publication Milestones

Milestone	Deadline	Deliverable
Topic & Target Venue	Week 2	Agreed with supervisor
Literature Review	Week 4	Documented and complete
Draft Manuscript	Week 9	Ready for internal review
Supervisor Review	Week 10	Revisions incorporated
Final Submission	Week 11	Submitted to journal/conference
Proof of Submission	Week 12	Confirmation receipt to DAAD coordination

Non-Compliance Consequences

- Classification as non-compliant; potential return of stipend/funds.
- Reported to home institution; may affect future DAAD eligibility.

8. KEY DELIVERABLES

Deliverable	Deadline	Recipient
Refined Research Plan	Week 1	TH Köln Supervisor
Mid-Term Progress Report (5–7 pp)	Week 6	Supervisor + DAAD Coordination
Research Publication (submitted)	Week 11	Target journal/conference
Final Report (10–15 pp)	Week 12	Supervisor + DAAD Coordination
Final Presentation (20–30 min)	Week 12	Research group + stakeholders
Proof of Publication Submission	Week 12	DAAD Hi-Nepal Coordination

9. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Student

- Conduct research ethically; attend all supervisor meetings; submit publication and reports on time; comply with TH Köln rules and DAAD guidelines.

TH Köln Supervisor

- Provide mentorship; facilitate lab/resource access; review manuscript drafts; submit performance evaluation.

Home Institution Supervisor (CES)

- Endorse application; maintain communication; ensure academic continuity and review manuscript drafts; submit performance evaluation.



DAAD Hi-Nepal Coordination

- Oversee implementation; manage funds; monitor compliance; compile outcomes for DAAD reporting.

10. REPORTING

- Weekly: brief email progress update to TH Köln supervisor.
- Bi-weekly: progress meeting with supervisor.
- Monthly: one-page summary to DAAD Hi-Nepal coordination.
- Mid-term (Week 6): 5–7 page report + presentation.
- Final (Week 12): 10–15 page report + presentation + exit survey.

11. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Criterion	Weight	Description
Research Proposal Quality	30%	Clarity, originality, feasibility, alignment
Academic Excellence	25%	GPA, transcripts, prior coursework relevance
Publication Potential	20%	Feasibility of 3-month publication output
Language Proficiency	10%	English skills for academic writing
Institutional Support	10%	Strength of home supervisor endorsement
Motivation & Fit	5%	Personal statement, program alignment

12. CODE OF CONDUCT & COMPLIANCE

- Adhere to TH Köln academic integrity, laboratory safety, and data protection (GDPR) policies.
- Academic dishonesty or misconduct = immediate dismissal.
- Respect intellectual property and confidentiality agreements.





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NOTICE

Date: 26th August 2026

Call for Applications: Student Exchange Program at TH Köln, Germany (DAAD Hi-Nepal Project)

The Center for Energy Studies (CES), Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University, invites applications from eligible Master's and PhD students for a 3-month research exchange at TH Köln, Germany, under the DAAD-funded Hi-Nepal project. The exchange offers advanced research exposure in Energy Systems, Renewable Energy, and Energy-Efficient Buildings, with access to TH Köln's laboratories, supervision, and international research environment. Full details, terms, and conditions are provided in the attached Terms of Reference (TOR).

Program Snapshot

Host Institution	TH Köln, Germany
Duration	3 months (strict; no extensions)
Focus Areas	Energy Systems Renewable Energy Energy-Efficient Buildings
Eligibility	Currently enrolled Master's (≥ 1 semester completed) or PhD students at IOE, Tribhuvan University, in Mechanical/Electrical/Civil Engineering, Architecture, Energy/Environmental Science, or related fields
Funding	DAAD monthly stipend (€934/month for Master's, €1,300/month for PhD), round-trip economy airfare, health insurance, and visa fees
Mandatory Requirement	Submission of at least one peer-reviewed research publication (minimum status: 'Under Review') by Week 12
Application Requirement	2,000-word research proposal aligned with the program's research areas, valid passport, and no conflicting scholarships

How to Apply

- Interested and eligible students must submit their application along with a 2,000-word research proposal, academic transcripts, and CV to CES within the deadline specified below.
- Applications will be evaluated on Research Proposal Quality (30%), Academic Excellence (25%), Publication Potential (20%), Language Proficiency (10%), Institutional Support (10%), and Motivation & Fit (5%), as detailed in the attached TOR.
- Shortlisted candidates may be called for further clearance/interview as required.

Application Deadline: 4th September 2026

Submission Office: Center For Energy Studies CES, IOE, TU

For complete eligibility criteria, research areas, timeline, funding details, deliverables, and compliance requirements, applicants must refer to the attached Terms of Reference (TOR).


TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING
CENTER FOR ENERGY STUDIES
1994
Center for Energy Studies
Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University

Attachment: Terms of Reference (TOR) - Student Exchange Program, Hi-Nepal / TH Köln