

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to apply for the “research scientist” position at Fraunhofer Center for Experimental Software Engineering (CESE). The advertised researcher/analyst position is strongly related to my research background and working experience. Below I tried to describe my current research interests and my skill-set as best as I can, hoping that it could provide you some information regarding how helpful I could be for Fraunhofer CESE. For further details, I am also sending my resume as part of my application.

I have been conducting basic and applied research on empirical software engineering for the past 4 years (1.5 years of masters and 2.5 years of PhD). My research includes developing various data analysis algorithms and effectively visualizing the results. I present the results of my research either to funding agencies through reports and/or to peer-reviewed journals or conferences through scholarly publications.

I have a strong focus on publications in my research. During my research process, I try to pinpoint fundamental problems, whose results: (a) would be applicable to real-life problems and (b) would be of interest to important audience groups like prominent journals. During my PhD career until now (29 months), I was able to produce 5 journal (2 of which are published at IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering) and 5 conference publications. Furthermore, I have been reviewing manuscripts for journals such as Empirical Software Engineering Journal, Information and Software Technology as well as Journal of Systems and Software. I believe that if I were given the opportunity, I would contribute to Fraunhofer CESE in terms of scholarly publications.

Aside from being able to conduct publishable research, I am able to work in an industrial environment towards customer needs and present my results effectively. During my graduate studies, I got the chance to actively work in various industry-funded projects. These projects required me to: (a) elicit process and quality objectives; (b) identify what sort of data would be required; (c) design and implement solutions for data collection through interviews, surveys and/or software measurement tools; and finally (d) analyze the collected data so as to build predictive models (e.g. defect predictors for testing). During these projects I was also responsible for presenting our research results in milestone meetings and enabling the technology transfer through training sessions. On multiple occasions, the attendees of my presentations praised me on my ability to convey our research results clearly and effectively to a less technical audience. Depending on my past experience in industrial environments, I have the confidence that I would also be beneficial for Fraunhofer CESE regarding real-life problems.

I am very eager to be a diligent and productive member of your team. I would appreciate it very much, if you could consider my application.

Yours Sincerely,

Ekrem Kocaguneli  
PhD Candidate  
West Virginia University