

A15 Ewa / Poland / German Studies

Interaction partner(s): German students

Moment of enquiry: WS 09/10

Experience of difference: Composition of students in university courses

Ewa is an Erasmus student who is spending a year in Germany. She is having a hard time getting used to the German system of studies. Her impression is that each student is a lone fighter, as there are no set study groups among same-year students and everyone has their own individual schedule, at least in the humanities. Ewa cannot establish contact with German students, as there are different students in all her courses. She misses the Polish system, where you finish your entire studies with the same students in all courses. One day, when she mentions this individualisation of studies to a German fellow student and the German is surprised. "But that's the good part about our system! We can pick and choose and focus on what is important to us!"

1. What might explain the Polish student's negative attitude toward the German system?
2. How important are the advantages mentioned, i.e. freedom of choice and specialisation for the German university system?