

**A21 Ms. Kleinschmidt / German lecturer / Engineering Studies**

Interaction partner(s): Chinese students  
Moment of enquiry: WS 08/09  
Experience of difference: Behaviour expectations towards students and lecturers

Ms. Kleinschmidt, a German lecturer, has a lot of contact with foreign students due to her teaching in an international course of studies. Overall, she thinks dealing with them is very pleasant: She finds foreign students to be much more polite than their German counterparts and more respectful towards the lecturers. Sometimes, however, the respectfulness can be strenuous. She has noticed that students from China in particular often choose not to ask questions or make critical comments out of politeness and respect, although Ms. Kleinschmidt repeatedly encourages them to do so. Often, it's her impression that the students have not understood everything, yet they never ask questions. She has offered the Chinese students to see her during her consulting hours before an exam to clarify questions or problems, but they hardly ever take her up on that offer. Ms. Kleinschmidt cannot understand this behaviour.

1. What bothers Ms. Kleinschmidt about the Chinese students' behaviour?
2. What could be the reason that the Chinese students do not ask questions?