

A24 Isabel / Spain / Engineering Studies

Interaction partner(s): German students

Moment of enquiry: SS 08

Experience of difference: Time management in lectures and courses

Isabel, a Spanish student, is spending a year at a German university. In the seminars, she has noticed that almost every time somebody comes in late they quite obviously do not think anything of it. Actually, she had always thought of Germans as being very punctual, but now she realises that this does not apply to German students. Once it even happened that a German fellow student showed up half an hour late, without an excuse, and the lecturer didn't say anything. In Spain, this kind of behaviour would have the lecturer reprimand the student or even throw him out of the class.

1. Why does the German students' being late irritate Isabel so much?
2. Why do lecturers tolerate this behaviour in most cases?