

A28 Hakan / Turkey / Course of studies unknown

Interaction partner(s): German student
Moment of enquiry: WS 08/09
Experience of difference: Social conduct among students

Hakan is an Erasmus student from Turkey. He is spending a year at a German university and has great difficulties getting used to the working style in lectures and seminars. The main problem is that Hakan cannot understand a lot because his German is not yet that good. In the beginning, he was hoping that the German students sitting next to him would offer their help. But now he is under the impression that nobody even notices his problems and sees his opinion that Germans only think about themselves confirmed. Finally, he gathers all his courage and asks the student sitting next to him regarding a term that the lecturer has just used. The German student gladly explains the term and adds: "Just ask me anytime you don't understand something." The Turkish student is baffled and wonders why the student hasn't volunteered his help in the past.

1. What does the Turkish student expect from his German fellow students?
2. Why does the German student help only after being asked?