

**B08** Fernando / Spain / Engineering Studies

Interaction partner(s): German lecturer  
Moment of enquiry: SS 09  
Experience of difference: Ways of contacting lecturers

Spanish student Fernando is spending a year abroad at a German university. He is studying engineering and occasionally needs advice on preparing his course certificates. During a period when he has no classes, he goes to his lecturer Mr. Schacht's office, knocks on the door and asks if the lecturer has got a minute. Mr. Schacht replies that he is busy and asks the student to come and see him in two days during his consulting hours. Fernando finds the lecturer's behaviour very strange, as he does not seem to have any other appointments at the moment and could easily take a moment. The same thing happens to him again a week later with a different lecturer. Again, he is asked to visit during consulting hours. Fernando is annoyed that he'll have to come back again for his quick question, especially since the lecturer is in his office and should be available for a brief talk.

1. How does the Spanish student interpret the reference to consulting hours? What did he expect?
2. Why does the German lecturer refer the student to his consulting hours?