

B20 Ms. Plötzer / German lecturer / Economics

Interaction partner(s): Chinese student

Moment of enquiry: WS 09/10

Experience of difference: Ways of cultivating relationships between students and lecturers

Ms. Plötzer is a research assistant at the faculty for Economics, and her job is to look after foreign students. One day she gives a Chinese student a rather in-depth consultation. Not only does she explain to her the “ins and outs” of studying at a German university, but also gives her tips for everyday student life. At the end of the consultation, the Chinese student hands the German lecturer a small, typical Chinese gift. Ms. Plötzer is surprised and at first does not know how to react, but then she finally accepts the gift and asks what the object is and what it means. The Chinese student explains the meaning of her gift and thanks Ms. Plötzer for the consultation. At the end she says that, after all, they will be working together for the next two years.

1. Why is the German lecturer surprised to receive a gift?
2. What does the Chinese student presumably want to achieve with her gift?