

C28 Wadim / Uzbekistan / Mechatronics

Interaction partner(s): Two German students
Moment of enquiry: SS 08
Experience of difference: Social contacts in research project groups

Vadim from Uzbekistan is a post-graduate student of Mechanical Engineering at a German university. He recently joined a research group, sharing an office with two German post-graduate students. Overall, he likes it very much, and his colleagues are very nice, but he's having a hard time establishing a personal relationship with his German co-workers. Even after several months, nothing has changed. He has barely found out anything about the family lives of his colleagues, and when he asks them about their personal lives, the response is usually short and seems rather distant to him. The other students are just not that interested in him. And even though he's been part of the group for a long time now, nobody has ever invited him over for coffee or tea. He is wondering what he might be doing wrong and comes to the conclusion that apparently, Germans are naturally cold.

1. Why does the Uzbek student perceive his colleagues at cold? What ideas are his expectations of the German post-graduate students based on?
2. What could be the reasons for the German students' behaviour?