

D05 Manu / Angola / Mechanical Engineering

Interaction partner(s): German students

Moment of enquiry: WS 09/10

Experience of difference: Social conventions for establishing contact

Manu is studying Mechanical Engineering at a German university. He enjoys his studies, but the contact with his German fellow students seems difficult. Every time he is in a conversation with a German student, he feels watched and stared at, and he has the impression that he's not accepted. The German students' stares seem hostile and unwelcoming. In fact, this bothers him so much that he's thinking about discontinuing his studies in Germany.

1. What could be the reason that the Angolan student perceives the German students' looks as unwelcoming?
2. What greeting conventions could the German students' behaviour be based on?