

**D11** Dolores / Spain / German Studies

Interaction partner(s): German students  
Moment of enquiry: WS 09/10  
Experience of difference: Contact rituals and proxemics

Dolores is from Spain and studies German at a German university. She finds it easy to meet new German students, and after a short time, she has made many friends. But every time she runs into one of her friends at the university, there are awkward moments. Dolores greets the German students the way she is used to from Spain, with a quick kiss on the cheek. Every time she is confused when she notices that the Germans pull back, quickly trying to put more physical distance between them. This makes her feel rejected.

1. What greeting conventions does the Spanish student assume?
2. What might explain the German students' defensive reaction?