

D17 Giulia / Italy / German Studies

Interaction partner(s): German students

Moment of enquiry: WS 01/02

Experience of difference: Behaviour expectations for invitations

Giulia has been invited to an exam party by a German fellow student. She is delighted about the invite and is thinking about what to wear. She doesn't want to be dressed too elegantly or too casually, and finally settles on a little black dress that best fits the occasion in her opinion. When she arrives at the party, she is shocked. Most of the guests are dressed very casually, some of them even in jeans, and she feels totally overdressed in her black dress. She feels uncomfortable all night, and she thinks everybody is staring at her.

1. What could explain Giulia's dress choice?
2. What might explain the German party guests' dress code?