

**D22** Carola and Jasmin / Germany / Literature Studies

Interaction partner(s): two Uzbek students  
Moment of enquiry: WS 07/08  
Experience of difference: Behaviour expectations for invitations

Carola and Jasmin have been invited to dinner by their Uzbek roommates, Soslan and Rischod. The two students plan on preparing a typical Uzbek meal in the dorm kitchen and have brought all the necessary ingredients and beverages. At seven o'clock sharp they start cooking while the girls are waiting in the next room. Finally, the Uzbek dish is served, stacked high on a tray. There is rice with different types of vegetables and raisins. Both Uzbek students keep filling Carola's and Jasmin's plates as soon as they've cleaned them. After two big portions, Carola is full and she would like to politely decline another helping. Soslan and Rischod, however, interpret Carola's declining a third helping as a rejection of their hospitality. Even though Carola swears up and down that the food was exceptional, the two Uzbek students are disappointed and continue to urge her to have some more. Carola finds this "urging" very pushy, but she doesn't want to come across as rude and so she accepts a third helping. She vows never to attend an Uzbek meal again!

1. Why does Carola consider the Uzbek students' behaviour pushy?
2. How do the Uzbek students perceive their host role, and what are their expectations towards the guest?