

D46 Wayan / Mechanical Engineering / Indonesia

Interaction partner(s): two German students
Moment of enquiry: WS 09/10
Experience of difference: Relationships to parents

Wayan is studying mechanical engineering at a German university. He lives in a dorm and gets along well with his two German roommates, Jakob and Johannes. However, it does bother him that the two have so little time for leisure activities together, because they both have a job besides their studies. Wayan does not understand why that is necessary, since he knows that both their parents aren't exactly poor. One day he asks Jakob why he has to make extra money, and whether he could not get by on the money his parents give him. Jakob laughs, saying he wants to be independent from his parents and therefore is paying for a major part of his education himself. Plus, he doesn't want to give up a certain standard of living. And that costs money. Wayan is surprised. He does not understand why independence from his parents is so important to Jakob and why he doesn't focus fully on his studies.

1. How might Wayan's attitude towards making money as a university student be understood?
2. What reasons might German students have for making money while studying at a university?