



Willkommen in Deutschland

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+ A little bit about me...

- Berlin since 2009
- Student – Political Science
- Student Exchange Office – ERASMUS incomings

+ Lernen wir uns kennen

- Hallo
 - Wie geht's Dir?
 - Auch gut, danke. Wie heißt Du?
 - Ich heiße auch Omran! Woher Kommst Du?
 - Ich komme auch aus England!
- Hallo
 - Gut, danke. Und Dir?
 - Ich heiße Omran. Wie heißt Du?
 - Ich komme aus England. Und Du?
 - Unglaublich!

+ Germany

- What is your impression of Germany? What are the stereotypes of Germany and Germans in your country?
- Common answers:
- Organised
- Efficient
- Hard-working
- Serious
- \geq All quite negative and not particularly exciting!

+ Some positives too

- Some truth in the common German clichés, however some other sides to Germany and Germans too:
 - Honest and genuine
 - Fair
 - Progressive
 - Mature approach to their history
 - Berlin – Good example of the ‘other’ side of Germany



Studying in Germany and Britain

- Have any of you studied in Germany or Britain? What were your experiences?

- Bachelor degree in Glasgow, Scotland
 - University was not just about studying, less academic' feel
 - Students and ,non-students' did not mix very much
 - Mainly lectures with a few seminars. Students were not used to debating and speaking in groups



Studying in Germany and Britain

- Master degree in Berlin, Germany
 - Students more focused on their studies and goal-orientated
 - University life less 'social'
 - Classes discussion-orientated with an emphasis on presenting and debating. Students are used to speaking in large groups and can do so confidently
 - Students and ,non-students' mix more
 - A lot more students work at the university



In your country?

- Do students only study in order to get a better job, or is it more about the experience and an opportunity to get to know people?
- Do students keep themselves to themselves? Do you have 'student only' cafes and bars in your city?
- Are students quite active and involved in the university, e.g. in student politics, or do the majority just come to classes and then leave?

+ 'Cultural shocks!' Work and Social life in Germany

- Difficult to generalise – my personal experiences since living in Germany
- Stronger division of work and free time – addressing colleagues with their second names
- People often talk about their profession in their free time, e.g. at a party
- Very important to be punctual!
- Berlin – People can be quite direct. Do not waste empty words

+ What you shouldn't say or do in Berlin

- “I thought the underground was free“
- “Can you tell me where all the cool bars and cafes are?“
- Cross the street when the light is red
- Try to make conversation with people on the underground
- Expect a smile when you buy something

+ Thanks for listening

- Questions or Comments?