

SABINE VANA | TRAINING & COACHING



TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT **ILMENAU** International Office of the TU Ilmenau

**SABINE VANA**  
TRAINING & COACHING



# Studying at the Technical University of Ilmenau

Online information session  
18 March 2026, 3 p.m.



photo: TU Ilmenau

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SABINE VANA TRAINING & COACHING

**SABINE VANA**  
TRAINING & COACHING



<https://sabine-vana.de>

Your lecturer

**Sabine Vana-Ströhla**  
**Consultant, Coach & Teacher**

Certified Trainer & Coach in the fields of Communication Psychology & Intercultural Communication  
Works for companies, universities, colleges, ministries and organisations

Today supported in chat by

**Markus Saft** &  
**International Office of the TU Ilmenau**

# STUDYING AT THE TU ILMENAU

- Short introduction to Germany and the TU Ilmenau
- Common forms of teaching and learning at the university
- Expectations of students by lecturers and staff
- Communication between lecturers and students
- Q&A

# FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Population: 84.5 million

Land area: 357,092 km<sup>2</sup>

Capital: Berlin

Date of foundation: 23 May 1949

Key economic sectors: Automotive industry,  
mechanical engineering, chemical industry



Photos: wikipedia

# BERLIN – CAPITAL OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

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Ilmenau has approx. 36 000 inhabitants



Town Hall

## ILMENAU

(photos: city Ilmenau)

<https://www.ilmenau.de/en/>



University

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Thuringian Forest



City Centre



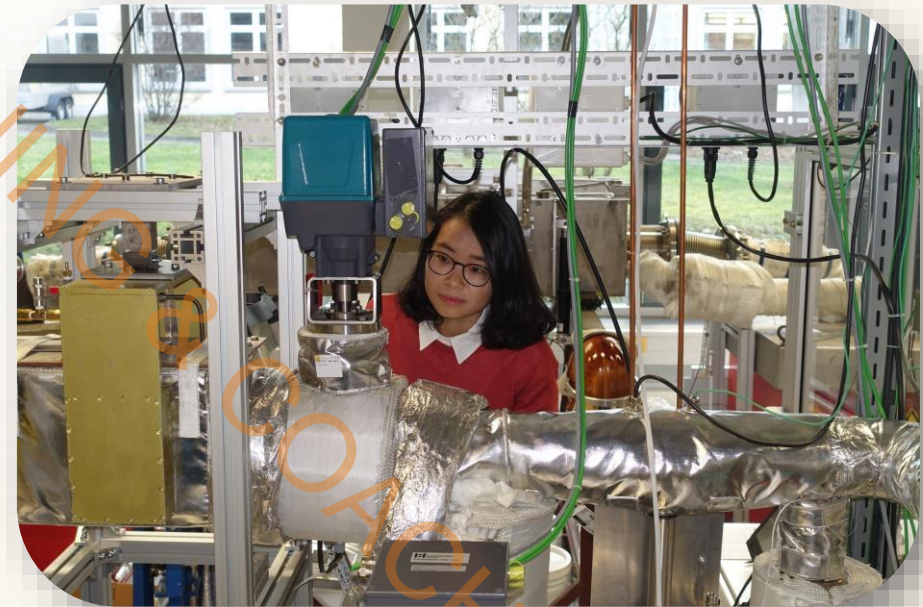
Swimming pool (indoor)



Town Square



Thuringian hospitality



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# DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CULTURES

BY PROF. FLECHSING, CULTURAL ORIENTATIONS

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It is very likely that every person has a different idea of how politeness is defined.

## Differences can arise, for example, in:

- Dealing with time
- Communication styles
- (In-)acceptance of hierarchies, woman's role
- Separation of privacy and public space
- (Non-)expression of emotions
- Eye and body contact
- Dealing with rules



Photo: TU Ilmenau/Reiche

## CASE STUDY

Kumar studies Computer & Systems Engineering at a German university. In many courses he notices that the lecturers often interrupt their lectures and ask the students questions or prompt them to enter into a discussion. Kumar is annoyed at this time-wasting. The students know a lot less about the subject than the lecturer. Therefore they cannot possibly contribute anything of value and it is completely superfluous to ask them at all. Kumar does not understand why the lecturers continually asks the students to comment and waste so much time on pointless discussions.

*Why interrupt the lecturers and ask the students questions or prompt them to enter into a discussion?*

- <https://www.menti.com/alymad26k5t9>
- **menti.com** with code **2133 6119**
- **QR Code**



# **BASIC IDEA: COMMON FORMS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING AT THE UNIVERSITY**

## **Developing learning**

Based on scientific methods of knowledge acquisition and promotes an active role for learners, especially in science subjects.

Focus: Problems that require independent questioning, solution finding and the application of scientific working methods.

## **Working independently**

... means determining your own schedule and methods in order to achieve your own learning goals.

... means self-organisation, self-management, flexibility, discipline and motivation.

## **Teachers will not check your transcripts**

Attendance at classes is not a must. However, regular attendance is important for the learning process and long-term learning success.



# TYPES OF COURSES

## LECTURE



photo: TU Ilmenau/Reichel

## SEMINAR



photo: Jason Goodman/unsplash

# LECTURES: INFORMATIVE

## Frontal teaching

### Lecturers

- present contents

### Students

- listen
- take notes
- if necessary ask a question



Photo: TU Ilmenau/Reichel

# SEMINARS: CONVERSATIONS / INTERACTIVE

## Scientific talks:

**In-depth treatment of a specific topic**

### Lecturers

- supporters in learning

### Students

- are responsible for the quality of the seminar (!)
- actively participate in the seminar



Photo: Jason Goodman/unsplash

# SEMINARS: NO SILENCE PLEASE !

When students persistently remain silent in seminars, lecturers interpret this as:

- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of motivation
- Deficits in the foreign language



## ECTS CREDITS



Photo: Erwan Heury/unsplash

**Master's degree: M.Sc.**

**300 ECTS credits**

# EXAMS



photo: Yvonne Weis/stock.adobe

# GRADING SYSTEM

Best grade is **1** 😊

Fail is **5** 😞

1,0	excellent
1,3	
1,7	very good
2,0	
2,3	
2,7	good
3,0	
3,3	
3,7	pass
4,0	
5,0	fail

# ORAL EXAMINATION

Mostly 30-minute examination:

- 15-20 minutes presentation by the student
- 10 minutes questions from the examiners

Topic either before the examination or during the examination.

**It is very essential that you arrive punctually!**

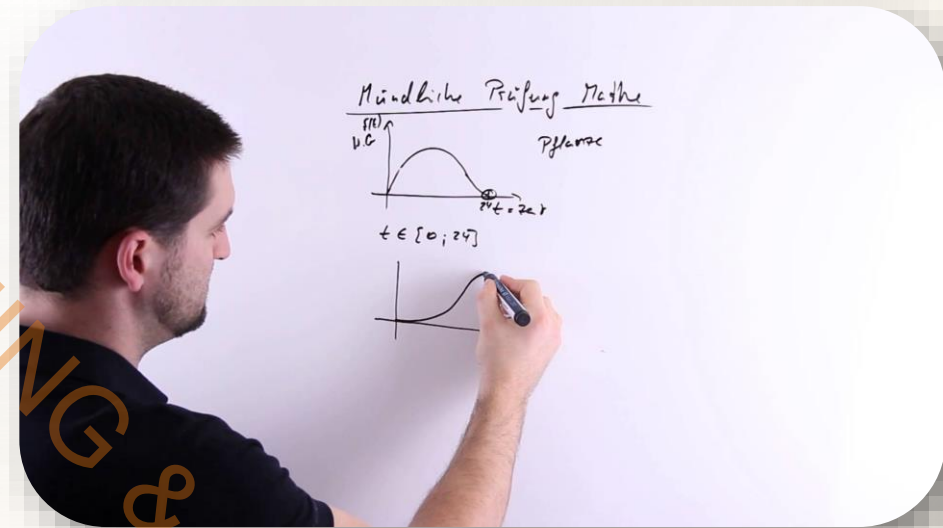


photo: TU Ilmenau

# CLOSED EXAMINATION (KLAUSUR)

**Binding registration!**

Written test

Answer questions on the course topic

It is very essential that you arrive punctually!



photo: Yarnu Jayanath/Pixabay

# PRESENTATION IN THE SEMINAR

## Student

- present topic orally
- prepare handouts
- initiate discussion



photo: campaign-creators/unsplash

# SCIENTIFIC WRITINGS

## Fixed structure

always

- Introduction
- Main part with discussion, pros and cons
- Summary

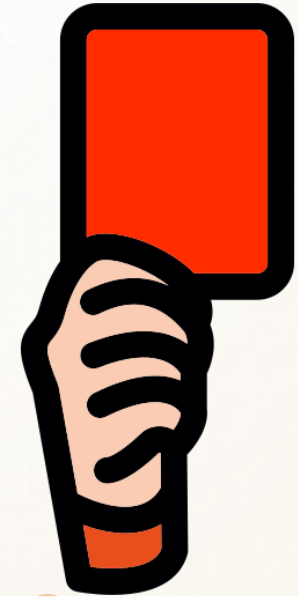


photo: TU Ilmenau

# SCIENTIFIC WRITINGS

**Follow the rules of citation!**

In case of plagiarism the work is invalid!



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# EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS BY LECTURERS AND STAFF

What do professors and staff expect from their students?  
What do you think?

- <https://www.menti.com/al23n6of7uu4>
- Menti.com, code 7232 4728
- QR-code



# EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS BY LECTURERS AND STAFF

Punctuality

Sense of responsibility

Self-organisation

Polite phrases

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# COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LECTURERS AND STUDENTS



photo: terimakasih0/pixabay

- Courses are places for communication and collaboration.
- Clarify any questions you may have with the lecturer!
- Ask questions!
- Lecturers are available to their students and can be contacted either in writing or in their office directly.
- When visiting the office, please note the office hours!

## SOME FURTHER INFORMATIONS

**DAILY LIFE THINGS**

# FINANCE

Please note that you will have to finance your studies yourself.

In comparison to other large German cities, staying in Ilmenau has low living costs.



# DAILY LIFE THINGS

ilmenau  
himmelblau



<https://www.ilmenau.de/en/>



Café LiBe



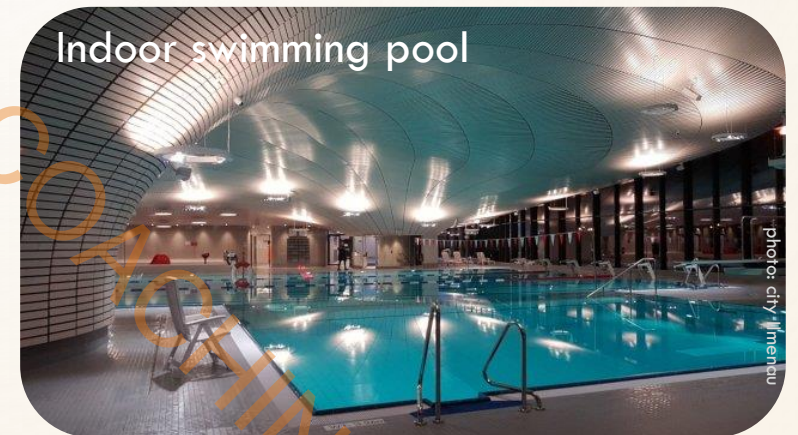
Student clubs



Hiking



Lindenberg-Trail



Indoor swimming pool

# PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN GERMANY, THURINGIA 2006



**1 January**  
New Years Day  
every year same day

**1 May**  
Labor Day  
every year same day



**24 - 25 May**  
Pentecost  
Days depending on Easter

**3 October**  
Anniversary of  
German unification  
every year same day



**24 December**  
Christmas  
every year same day

**31 December**  
New Year's Eve  
every year same day

**3 April - 6 April**  
Easter  
first Sunday after the  
first full moon in spring

**14 May**  
Christ's Ascension  
Day depending on Easter

**20 September**  
World Children's Day  
every year same day,  
only in Thuringia

**31 October**  
Reformation day  
every year same day

**25 - 26 December**  
Christmas holidays  
every year same days



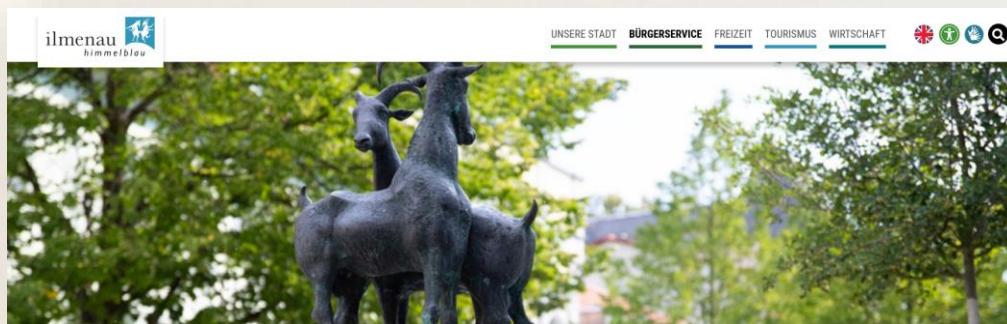
# SHOP OPENING HOURS



**Supermarkets**  
Monday - Friday  
from 7 or 8 am  
to 7 or 10 pm,  
Saturday  
until 1 pm or 6 pm



**Textiles, shoes, ...**  
Monday - Friday  
from 9 or 10 am  
to 5 or 6 pm,  
Saturday  
until 12 am or 1 pm



<https://www.ilmenau.de/de/buergerservice/leben-und-wohnen/einkaufen/>

**Please note that shops in Germany are closed on Sundays!!!**

# PUBLIC TRANSPORT



## **BUS**

within Ilmenau  
with the  
semester ticket  
or  
“Deutschland-  
ticket”



## **TAXI RANK**

at the station.  
Please note that  
taxis in  
Germany are  
very expensive  
(!) compared to  
other countries!



## **TRAIN**

to Erfurt, and  
from there on to  
other cities.  
Use the  
semester ticket  
or “Deutschland-  
ticket”

## SMALL TALK

### Topics can be:

Your study

What's new at the university

Housing situation in the city

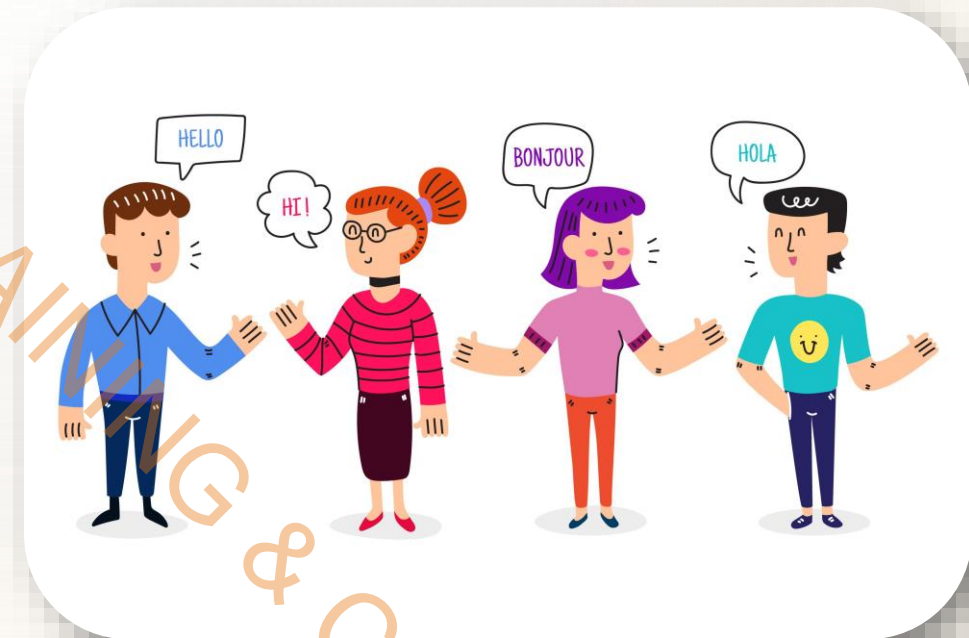
Vacation

Good/bad movie

The weather

Future plans

...

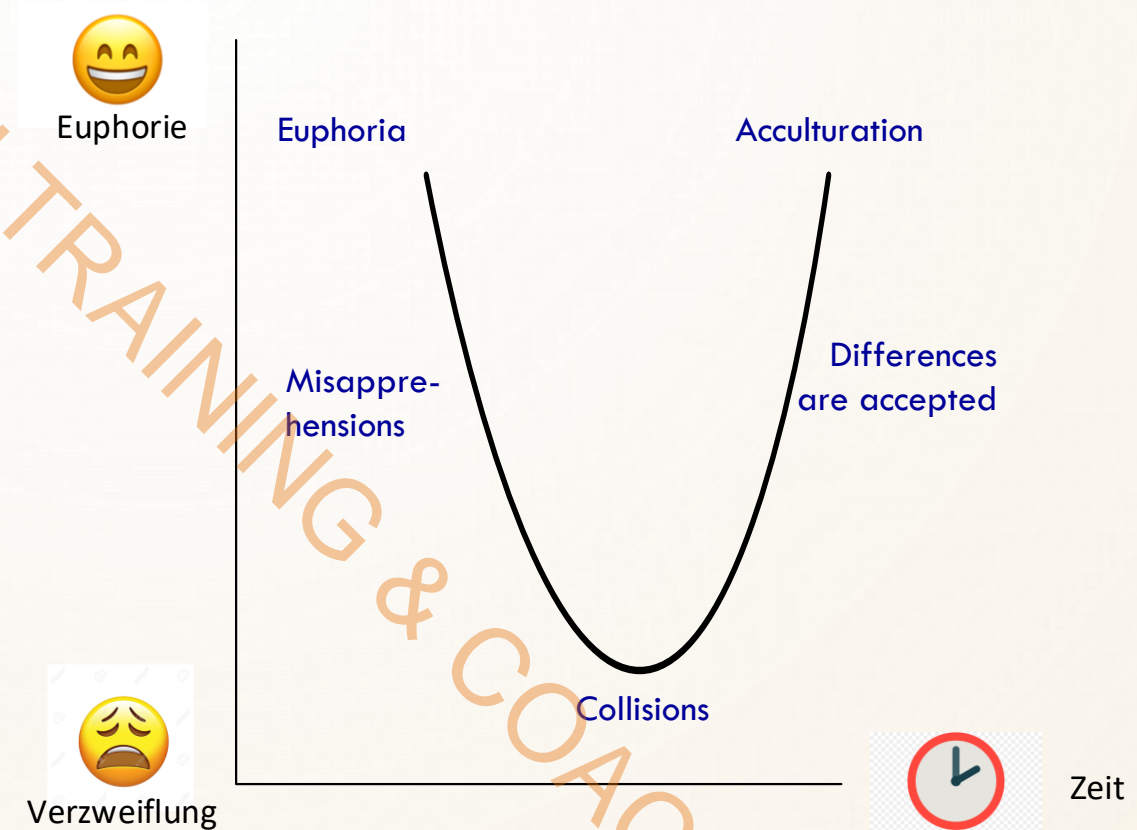


# THE CULTURE SHOCK

BY K. OBERG, IDEAL-TYPICAL

Please categorise these terms according to the phases of culture shock :

- Acculturation
- Euphoria
- Collisions
- Misapprehensions
- Differences are accepted



## SOME FURTHER INFORMATIONS

What helps to overcome intercultural challenges or misunderstandings?

- <https://www.menti.com/alt2mimrruf6>
- menti.com, code 2448 9365
- QR Code



# INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

## 4 Key qualifications

**Professional competence:** prior experience, knowledge of structures, ...

**Strategic competence:** knowledge management, problem-solving ability, ...

**Individual competence:** willingness to learn, tolerance of ambiguity, ...

**Social competence:** ability to work in a team, communication skills, ...



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All the best & good luck!



Photo: Duy Pham/unsplash



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