



RWTH Workshops on Intercultural Communication



Since 2002 the Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule (RWTH) Aachen has been offering workshops on intercultural communication. The next two-day workshops will take place on May 4-5, 2012 and August 3-4, 2012. Registration is open for students of all faculties.

These highly popular workshops provide you with a transparent structure for understanding the “cultural logic” behind how different cultures meet and build relationships, discuss and solve problems, make decisions, teach and learn, offer help and hospitality. Equally important, the interactive approach trains you to develop the practical skills needed to act with confidence and competence in unfamiliar or unexpected situations. The effectiveness of the workshop lies in that it addresses exactly those typical situations of frequent misunderstanding and difficulties in adjustment for any student (outgoing German student or incoming foreign student to Germany) going into an unfamiliar academic and social environment.

In attending these workshops, which are organized by the University's International Office, you will not only prepare yourself for a more effective academic stay or internship abroad. The workshop takes you far beyond the superficial dos and don'ts of etiquette and even conventional language skills, and provides you with a solid foundational basis of knowledge and skills that will prepare you for the same problems once you enter your professional career.

In particular, if you are a foreign student of the RWTH you are also member of an important target group. You will equally benefit from one of the main focusses of the seminar: understanding the German communication style, why it differs from those of other cultural groups, and how foreign students can better adjust to both the German academic communication culture and society at large.

What's in the workshop?

The application- and practice-oriented workshop is designed as a “hands-on” two-day event which will take place on consecutive days and be given in English. Drawing on real-life case studies, group activities and role-playing simulations, the workshop provides opportunities to apply the knowledge and tools acquired. A Certificate of Participation will be provided after the workshop.

Who is the trainer?

Alexia Petersen, M.A. (Canadian) is an international trainer of intercultural communication and works with numerous academic institutions and commercial organisations in Germany and abroad. In addition to her own very multicultural background, she brings to these seminars her extensive professional experience of making the widest range of cultures accessible for the audience.

Who should join?

- ✓ Students preparing for an academic stay or an internship abroad
- ✓ Foreign students at RWTH Aachen
- ✓ Any student who is interested in entering a career that will put him in contact with other countries and cultures
- ✓ Any student who is interested in successfully communicating across cultures!

Need more information?

- Check the web site of the International Office: www.rwth-aachen.de/internationales
- Check the web site of the workshop trainers for workshops dates, contents, FAQ, and student feedback: www.aspetersen.de/rwth

Where do you sign up?

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