

18. UNICert®-Workshop
"Hochschulspezifisch"
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TU Dresden

AG 13: UNICert® ESP courses for international students

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The growing internationalisation of German higher education (HE) has led to a substantial increase not only in the number of international students enrolled here but also English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI) courses on offer (i.e. academic courses e.g. accounting, physics or marketing taught through the medium of English). According to recent statistics, the former has increased by 37% in the last ten years and Germany is currently the fifth most popular host country among international students (*Bundesagentur für Arbeit*). In addition, students from China, India and Russia currently account for almost 25% of the international student population in Germany (*ibid.*). As far as EMI degree programmes are concerned, whereas in the winter semester 2005/06 their number stood at 391, the website of the *Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst* currently lists just over 1,300 such degrees.

From a perspective of an English for Specific Purposes (ESP) teacher, these developments raise a number of important questions that this workshop aims to address:

- What challenges and opportunities are involved in teaching a much more culturally diverse student population in German HE institutions?
- To what extent do culture and intercultural competence play / should play a role in ESP teaching and learning and whose culture should be the focus?
- What are the boundaries and overlaps between the tasks and responsibilities of ESP teachers and EMI lecturers? Is cooperation between these two groups possible / desirable and if so, what form should it take?
- What implications may this changing educational landscape have on the work of UNICert® as an organisation committed to promoting "hochschulspezifische, hochschulbezogene und hochschuladäquate Fremdsprachenausbildung"?

The first part of the AG will:

- provide an overview of the processes of internationalisation and EMI-sation of German higher education
- disentangle the concepts of EMI and ESP and the challenges involved in both
- outline the key features of the UNICert ESP teaching and testing concept and the extent to which it promotes the development of intercultural communicative competence

In the second part of the AG the participants will be asked to form small groups and select an ESP area they feel comfortable with (e.g. Business or Technical English) and create a concept for a course a) aimed at a highly multicultural group of students and b) involving collaboration with EMI lecturers teaching related subjects with regard to syllabus design, delivery and assessment. The final part will give the participants an opportunity to present and discuss their concepts. The suggestions / ideas discussed and concerns raised in the AG will then be summarised in the closing session.