



■ Subproject "Writing Center Multilingualism"

Faculty of Education

Learning how to Study
— Academic Writing —

Writing Center Multilingualism (Schreibwerkstatt Mehrsprachigkeit)



Writing is a key competence for academic success

Learning how to write academic texts and learning how to teach academic writing

Learning to write is an ongoing process. Students can attend weekly advising sessions as often as they like. Sessions are generally led by student peer tutors who have been trained in the Writing Center Multilingualism and certified by the Faculty of Education. Both students and peer tutors benefit from this arrangement.

Peer Tutoring (Offene Schreibwerkstatt)

In peer tutoring classes, student writing advisors comment on texts by students seeking feedback and exchange thoughts on their writing. Participants learn to write different kinds of academic texts with confidence while their peer tutors gain (multilingual) advising experience and the skills needed to offer constructive criticism.



Writers' Café (Schreibcafé)

In the Writers' Café, topics on academic writing are discussed in a casual and cozy atmosphere. Writing exercises further supplement discussion. Peer tutors prepare sessions, create handouts, and learn how to lead discussions in groups, with students who have various language levels.



The Write Time

It is both inspiring and encouraging to sit together and write. The Write Time gives students an opportunity to concentrate on their own work and discuss their topic with others. Although peer tutors are on hand to provide guidance, the Write Time promotes independent work.



Multilingualism is a resource for academic writing

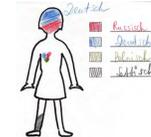
The Writing Center Multilingualism develops and tests concepts for the effective use of multilingualism in academic writing.

Welcoming individual multilingualism

Many students feel that being multilingual is more of a hindrance than a help. In the Writing Center Multilingualism students are encouraged to think about their relationship to their multilingual skills. We value individual language backgrounds and see these as the basis for individual support.



"Greek is my mother tongue and everywhere; I like English so it is mixed with Greek; green and blue are beautiful colors. To use German, I have to think a lot, so it is in my head. I have to use it at the university, for example, so it is in my hands." (21-02-74)

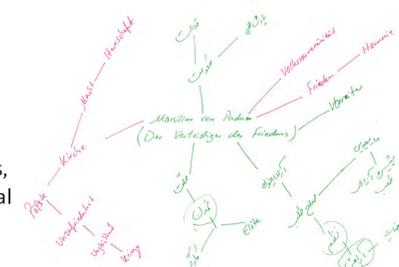


Advising in languages other than German

Upon request, multilingual peer tutors can advise students in languages other than German, such as Turkish or Russian. Differences between academic and everyday language as well as culturally-specific thinking habits become apparent and can be put to effective use.

Language switching leads to new ideas

Multilingual mindmaps and intentionally switching language during a brainstorming are examples how to open up new perspectives and activate different notions, potentially leading to new ideas beyond the monolingual scope.



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