



L2_Paths Project

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Language Advice Sessions

Case Study

Partner: iberika

Language Advisor: Monica Seemann

Date(s) of Advice Session(s): 02.09.2015 – 11.09.2015

Learner Description:

Name, nationality, approximate age, life situation

Mr T. is in his 30s. He was born in Argentina and moved to Germany in summer 2015. He is a Spanish teacher and found work as a freelance Spanish teacher shortly after arriving in Berlin.

Mr T. had been learning German for some years before moving to Berlin. Nevertheless, the immigration agency obliged him to complete an integration course in order to maintain his residence permit. This is what brought Mr T. to the Language Advice Center.

Assessment of the Learner's language learning goals, their skill levels, learning styles, and preferences

Mr T. got in touch with our Language Advice Center by mail because he wanted to find out what his options were but didn't know where to start looking. The Language Advisor asked him to come by for a personal advice session and placement test which Mr. T happily accepted.

During the first advice session it became clear that Mr. T was at B2/C1 level and spoke German fluently. He had also taken an official exam. He was happy, however, to improve his

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German in a language course. However, it also became clear that not any type of language course would be suitable for him and that his biggest obstacle would be his unpredictable working hours which would make it very hard to attend a language course continuously over a longer period of time.

What advice were you able to give them

The Language Advisor started by getting to know Mr. T and finding out about his reasons for moving to Germany, his new job as a Spanish teacher and about his previous experiences learning German.

Then, the Language Advisor checked Mr Ts exam certificate to find out what his level was according to the CEFR. Even though Mr. Ts German level was excellent when he came to the first advice session and despite him being able to prove his language skills with an official exam certificate, the Language Advisor made it clear to Mr. T that he had to attend an integration course to fulfil his visa requirements. The Language Advisor, provided Mr. T with names and addresses of different language schools that offer suitable courses for him and agreed that he would get in touch with them to enrol for a language course and that he would come back for a feedback session within a week.

In the second advice session, Mr T. had taken the necessary steps to enrol in a language course. The Language Advisor showed him some self-study materials to prepare for the official language exam after the language course and provided Mr T. with a list of exam dates and exam centers that Mr T. contacted after the session.

What was their experience of learning after your advice? Was it successful? What problems did they have?

Mr T. was overwhelmed by the amount of paper work and variety of different learning options and chose to speak to a Language Advisor to find out what he needed to do and where to find a suitable language course.

The main problem for Mr T. were his unpredictable working hours and work load which we thought would make it very hard for him to attend a language course on a regular basis over a longer period of time. For this reason, in addition to the language course, the Language Advisor provided Mr. T with information about self-study materials that he could study at his leisure to better prepare for the official exam.



Your observations about your interaction
with this learner.

Mr. T was a very friendly and co-operative client. On the one hand, his good level of German made communication with him very easy. On the other hand, it was hard to find the right words to convince him he had to attend a language course anyway to fulfil all legal requirements when he was already fluent in German.

However, he appreciated the advice, fulfilled all tasks he agreed on with the Language Advisor and successfully completed the final language course exam before the end of the year.