"From Distributed Campus to Open DC"
Internet-based Coaching for International Students

Karoline von Köckritz
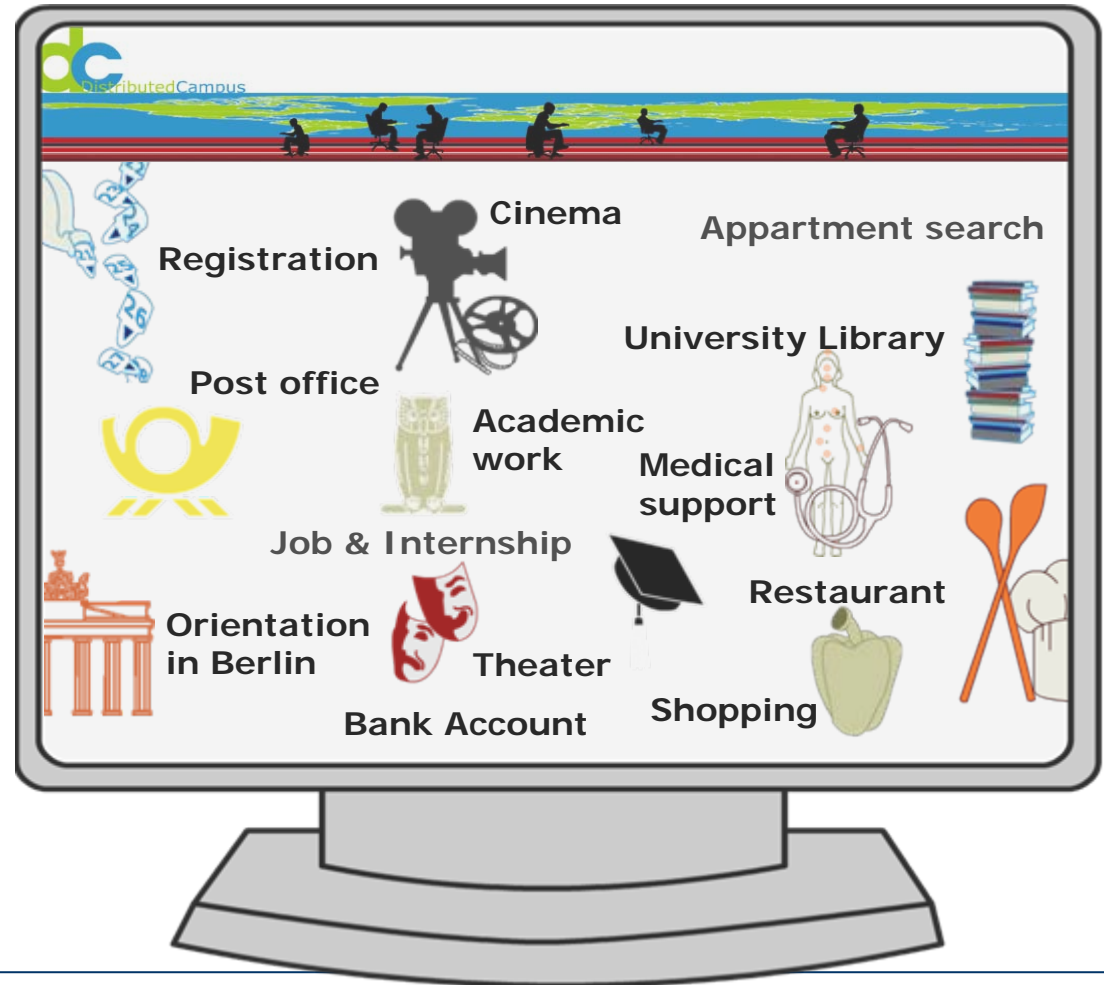
Freie Universität Berlin, Center for Digital Systems (CeDiS)

Online Educa 2008: Pre-conference Workshop 3rd of December

Intercultural knowledge transfer

Virtual studies prepare real-live mobility

Pre-departure
preparation through
real-time guidance
- academics
- intercultural matters
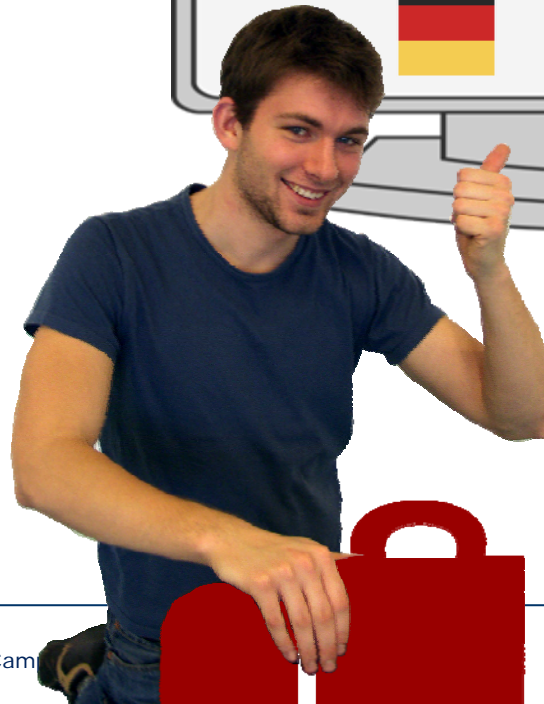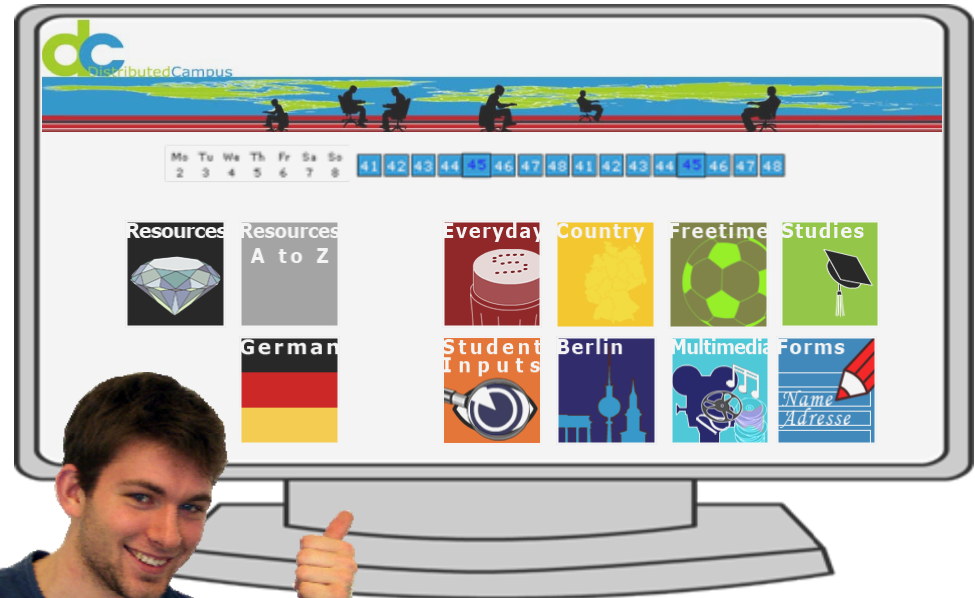- social life
- every-day orientation

Communication
- organizers and tutors

Personification

Real-life
- ongoing online support
  while in Berlin

CeDiS

Distributed Campus development

Motivation

Target group
- International students (incomings) at FU Berlin
- 1 – 2 semester stay

Intercultural knowledge transfer
- facilitate transition & integration

Realization
- Center for Digital Systems (CeDiS)
  - e-Learning / Multimedia Competence Center at the FU Berlin
- International Office, FU Berlin

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Online Coaching

Before studies
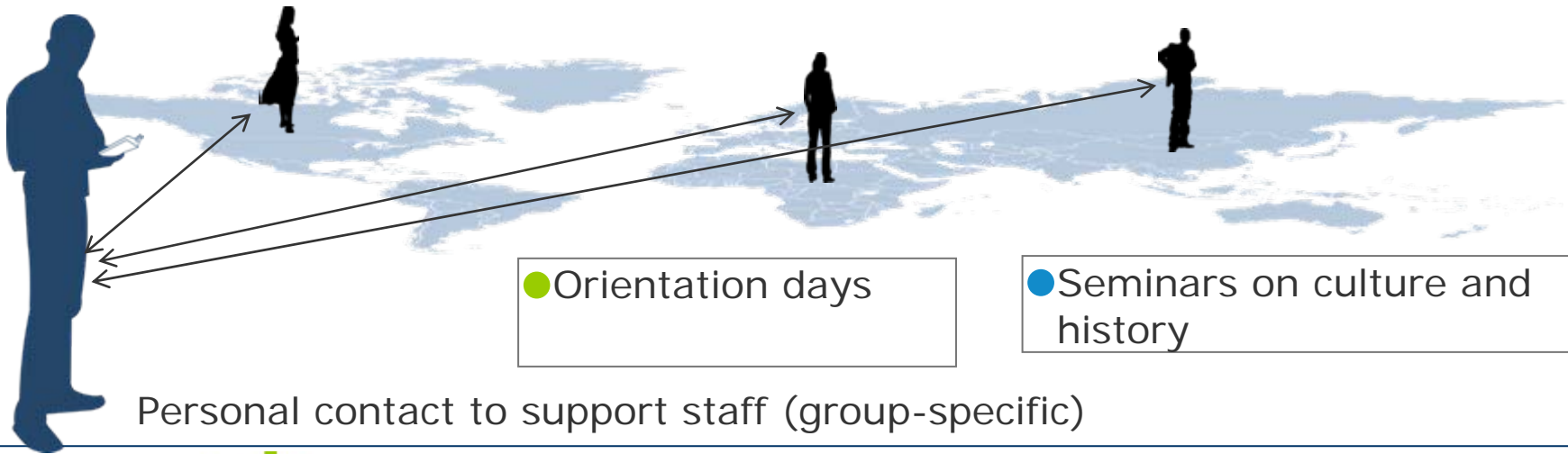- Immatriculation
- Apartment search
- …

Starting studies
- Choosing seminars
- Timetable
- Insurance
  …

During studies
- Campus life
- Academic work
- Everyday life
  …

Group-specific materials - online central Content Pool

- Orientation days
- Seminars on culture and history

Personal contact to support staff (group-specific)

Dept. of Law

- Masterprogramm LL.M.
- Themis-Programm Joint Certificate in International and Business Law

Dept. of Political & Social Sciences

- Journalisten International

Dept. of Veterinary Medicine

- Joint Master-Programme Veterinary Public Health

Dept. of Earth Sciences

- International Research Master in Metropolitan Studies (in Evaluation)

International office

- ERASMUS
- university partner programs

Direct exchange programs

- Duke in Berlin Program, Duke Summer School
- Berlin Consortium for German Studies

Further programs

- Europäische Journalisten Fellowships
- FU-BEST
- Stanford University in Berlin
- Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies

Open DC model: advantages for students

Support for Students

- Better pre-departure and on-site support for international students
- Online distribution of up-to-date, authentic and attractive materials
- Students arrive better prepared

Improve student satisfaction ➡️

Open DC model: advantages for organizers

International Partner

CeDiS

International Office

Support for organizers

- Decentralized editing of online materials increases flexibility (time / place)
- All users access one central platform
- Decrease in students' questions via mail or phone

Greater institutions' satisfaction

CeDiS

Open DC: Transmission to other universities

From Distributed Campus to Open DC:

- Open Source software: DC
- Contains all Distributed Campus features
- Contains all Distributed Campus intercultural and academic content

Services package:

- Installation
- Hosting and maintenance
- Design
- Documentation and training

➡ Individually configurable platform for each university

Potsdam University:

UPrepare

http://uprepare.distributed-campus.org

Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena:

Intercampus

http://opendc.distributed-campus.org

➡ Use at Universites Bremen, Mainz, Karlsruhe in preparation!

Distributed Campus: experiences

Student inputs from DC use at the Freie Universität Berlin

Colin Stayton, New York University:

„Distributed Campus is seriously an amazing web-site. It provides you with an answer to every question you may ever have about your stay here in Berlin […]. More than just a resource, it is a fun and innovative learning tool, portraying real student voices […]."

Andrea Everett, Stanford University:

„Very useful tool! Best aspects are the student inputs and the preparation timeline!"
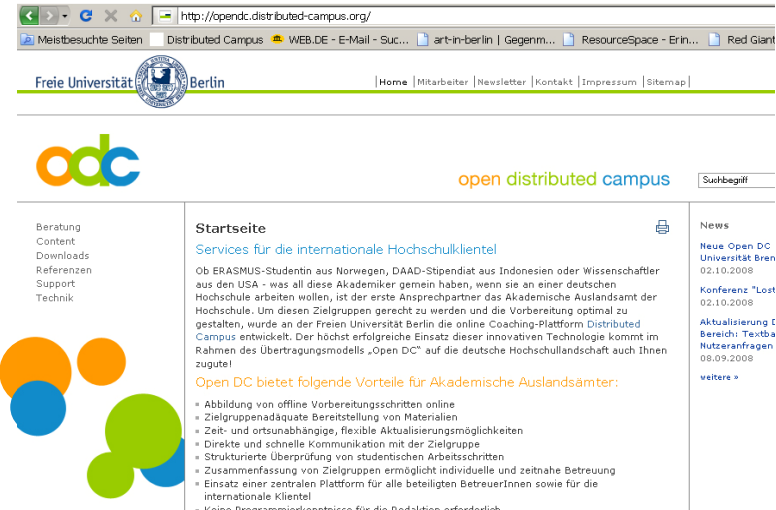
Jenna Huber, Roanoke College:

„I am absolutely obsessed with the Distributed Campus web portal! I think it is a brilliant idea and it is helping me so much already. I feel a lot more prepared for Germany than before I began using this great tool."

Students

Thank you for your attention!

Open DC:

http://opendc.distributed-campus.org

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