



**UC** Leuven  
Limburg

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**MOVING MINDS**

**Intensive Preparatory Year Higher  
Education for Newcomers  
IVAN**



# Target Group - Domains

- To prepare higher educated, foreign speaking students (newcomers) to study on Associate's degree (EQF5) level-bachelor/master level or trajectory to work at higher level
- Since 2013
- Focus on 5 domains:
  - Accountancy
  - ICT
  - Automation
  - Shopmanagement
  - Sciences



- To elaborate on linguistic skills: Dutch 2<sup>nd</sup> L. B2 – academic Dutch, technical language, instruction language (higher) education...
- Preparation to study in the Flemish HE-context: study- en learning skills
- Orientation to HE and/or work: PDP
- Obtaining certificates within an exemption application context



# Program – sem 1

<b>Accountancy/ shopmanagement</b>	<b>ICT/ Automation</b>	<b>Sciences</b>
Dutch	Dutch	Dutch
maths	maths	maths
PC skills		PC skills
excel	excel	excel
introduction accountancy	introduction ICT datasystems	Basic sciences
basic accountancy	programming	Basic sciences
Orientation	Orientation	Orientation



# Screening and testing

- Intake and screening before start
  - Mathematics: arithmetic and logic
    - prescreening course to practise basic vocabulary before test
  - ICT-skills: word - excel
    - Screened by Dutch 2nd L expert
  - Motivation – test
    - Adapted to foreign learners
  - Adapted Lassi test (learning and Study Skills Inventory)
    - Simplified test
  - Advice and intake
  - Level Dutch (A1+/B1-)

# How to deal with cultural differences





# How to deal with language and cultural differences

- Greater chance on misunderstanding and miscommunication.
- Differences can be subtle
- Avoid positive discrimination, but give equal chances
- Not always the cause of problems, misconceptions, ...
- Need for knowledge intercultural communication and competencies (e.g. Topoi – Hoffman)
- Different approach on studying and learning
- Demands on ethical approach



# TOPOI-model E. Hoffman

- 5 levels to avoid misunderstanding in communication
  - **Tongue** people influence with and without words
  - **Order** relativity of truth
  - **Person** communication has a relational level
  - **Organization** communication on a organizational level
  - **Intentions and influence** all behavior is communication





# Attitude

- Very clear communication and instructions
- Prep. course needed, not only on the language level, also to avoid socially acceptable answers
- Avoid prejudices and stereotyping, remain responding
- The other is specialist and owner of his/her own vision and story
- Focus on similarities not on differences



# Findings

- External motivation matters in many cultures
- Most students have a reproductive learning style
- Very high fear of failure, especially masculin, obstructs screening and influences behaviour
- Different level of ICT-skills, not so on an educational level
- Similarities mother tongue with Dutch on the structural level facilitates language learning
- Structure HE differs in name but not really concerning content



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# Questions?

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“The journey of a thousand miles, begins with one step” Lao Tzu