

## New soft skill courses in PPRE

During summer term 2015 PPRE-Students took chance to participate in the new developed soft skill courses, namely 'Working in international Teams' and 'Project Management Basics'.

Both courses were organized by the faculty of natural sciences at University of Oldenburg and conducted by external experts.

The course "**Working in international teams**" aimed at international and German students, who got input to questions such as

- What is culture and how does it affect us?
- Culture shock – when does it occur / phases / what to do about it
- Chances and risks when working in international teams
- How to deal with difficulties

Another part of the course discussed aspects such as

- Living situations
- The importance of family
- Religion and politics  
Values

of the different cultures present.

Aspired benefits:

- Get in contact with students from other cultures
- Get an hands-on idea of how it feels to work in an international team
- Create an awareness of the impact of culture on each of us
- Learn how to deal with difficulties arising out of cultural differences
- For international students: Learn about German culture to ease understanding

The course "**Project management basics**" covered the fundamentals of project management. The students learned to start projects systematically by making use of recognized and approved methods. They got to know how to deal with the diversity of stakeholder expectations and became acquainted to the techniques of project monitoring and controlling. Students developed interactively a common understanding of project management principles, methods and tools. After the 2 day training the students worked in small groups on their own projects. These projects were presented on the last seminar date. The course is accompanied by e-learning.

In future it is planned that PPRE-Student may benefit more often from such the soft skills workshop, which are organized in addition to the regular curriculum.