



Australian
National
University

Upcoming Seminar

ANU Language Teaching Forum

Monday 23 October 2017, 4.15 – 5.15 pm
Room W3.03, Level 3, Baldessin Precinct Building #110, ANU

Speaker: Dr Gabriele SCHMIDT, SLLL, CASS, ANU

‘Learning a new language can diversify my life’: The L2 Motivation of International Students Learning a European Language in Australia



This presentation investigates the language learning motivation of international students who learn a European language (French, German, Italian or Spanish) as part of their degree in Australia. Since 2000, international students in Australian universities have more than tripled and now amount to about 20% of overall enrolments. This development is reflected in the growing number of

international students enrolled in language and culture courses. Drawing from an analysis of interviews with sixteen international students and the results from an online survey with responses from 101 international students enrolled in eight Australian universities, it will be argued that the main reasons for learning a European language are a travel motive, a strong intellectual and cultural interest, as well as an expectation that proficiency in an additional European language will enhance future career prospects. Furthermore, the data analysis will reveal that the interactive teaching and learning environment of the language classroom makes international students feel more engaged and included when compared to the large lectures which they experience in many other disciplines.

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This forum is jointly coordinated by the College of Arts & Social Sciences (the School of Literature, Languages & Linguistics and the Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies) and the College of Asia & the Pacific (the School of Culture, History & Language).

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