

Student College „SelfiE – self-learning competencies for more success“

Student Support Program for Improving Quality in Teaching

1 Concept and Goals

By the start of summer semester 2019 the student college “docendo discimus – learning by teaching!”, which had been founded in the faculty 7 at the university of Koblenz-Landau, was converted into the interdisciplinary student college “SelfiE - self-learning competencies for more success”.

The Student College „SelfiE“ within the Faculties 5, 6 and 7 has the goal to support students and instructors in improving on the quality of teaching. Students, who want to deepen their own understanding by teaching others, can apply to the Program with their own innovative teaching ideas. Application is open to all students having studied at least one subject within faculty 7 during their Bachelor’s. Members of „SelfiE“ will be employed via a research assistant contract providing around 300 Euro (before taxes) per month for 6 months, and are guided through their teaching project by an experienced mentor. Members also participate in a set of coordinated programs, which support them in furthering their self-learning competencies exchange of experiences with peers and continuing education offerings. The Student College has the following specific objectives:

1. **Expansion and depth of course offerings in the Faculties 5, 6 and 7 that align with the students’ and instructors’ needs** (e.g., Tutorials, exercises, participating in existing courses, etc.)
2. **Students’ advancement:** integrated offerings on „self-regulation and self-learning strategies“ as courses led by tutors.
3. **Support of students as member of the College:** fellows teach existing courses as part of the “learn through Teaching” idea (achieving deeper knowledge of subject matter, supporting their academic independence, their interest and motivation in the subject matter and social competencies)
4. **Support of instructors as members of the College:** support in the teaching, feedback from guiding the student member and growth as a mentor

2 Offerings

2.1 Guided teaching

Fellows lead existing courses. In order to achieve the learning objective through teaching, about 4 hours (SWS) of teaching is recommended.

2.2 Mentoring

Fellows are guided through their teaching by experienced instructors, who serve as mentors. Mentors meet with fellows at least at the beginning, middle and end of the semester in order to plan and organize the course as well as to reflect how the project will be implemented.

2.3 Group mentoring

Participating fellows meet regularly to exchange experiences. The group is led by the College Coordinator.

2.4 Group retreat and kick-off seminar

At the beginning of the Program period, a group retreat with a joint kick-off seminar is held for the colleagues of departments 5, 6 and 7. The full-day kick-off seminar serves both to train self-learning skills and to convey the basics of university didactics as well as tutor training.

Main points of the kick-off seminar include:

1. Input on the topic of self-learning competencies (managing effort, strategies for planning, monitoring and regulating learning, elaboration and help-seeking behaviour)
2. University didactics (learning theories, formulating objectives for courses, time management of courses, semester planning and planning individual class meetings)
3. Reworking the teaching concept by the fellows
4. Presenting the teaching concept by the fellows, with feedback

3 Organizational structure

3.1 Announcing the support programs

The application period runs once a year at the end of the semester.

The support period: 01.10-31.03 for the winter semester and 01.04-30.09 for the summer semester.

The program is publicized through email, student unions and instructors and posters. Students interested in deepening their understanding through teaching others can propose their own teaching ideas as part of their application. To do this, one has to identify a willing instructor to which the idea will be connected and who will serve as mentor for the applicant. Interested students apply via an online form at <http://selfie.uni-landau.de/>

3.2 Online application of students

The necessary information for the online application of students include:

- CV/Resume (to be uploaded as an attachment)
- Document of exams results (KLIPS-Grades to be uploaded as an attachment)
- Motivation letter and teaching idea
 - What motivated you to take part in teaching?
 - What personal goals tie in with the Student College?
 - What concepts do you want to apply?
 - What is the target group of your course and where and in which major is your course
 - Objectives of the course: Which competencies should the students be able to demonstrate by the end of the course?
 - Content focus: What content is the course supposed to cover? How does your teaching idea align with the description in the Module of the major?
 - Applying the didactic methods: How will the objectives and course content be covered?
 - How are self-learning competencies of the participants being integrated thematically?
- Statement of the mentor (following the online application of the student also at <http://selfie.uni-landau.de/>) The reminder function is the responsibility of the applicants.

3.3 Selection

The selection of applications is done by the Leadership Committee. The following selection criteria will be used:

- The concept of the teaching idea
 - To what extent are the objectives obtainable during a semester?
 - To what extent do the objectives align to the study plan of the students (target group)?
 - How well does the content match the descriptions in the Module of the major?
 - To what extent are the didactic methods applied/aligned to the objectives?
 - How achievable are the didactic methods
 - In how far are self-learning competencies thematized and mediated?
- Your own motivation, orientation to the needs of the students as well as the prerequisites and the ability to apply the teaching idea (judgement of the mentor -> rating rubric)

Successful applicants are members of the College for a full semester. A second semester is possible.

5 Time line

| Jan 20 | Feb 20 | March 20 | Apr 20 | May 20 | June 20 | July 20 | Aug 20 |
|---|---|--|---|--------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Application announcement begins 13.01.2020 | Semester ends 15.02.2020 Application deadline 21.02.2020 | Selection process Leadership Committee by 04.03.2020 Comments returned to applicants and mentors by 09.03.2020 Planning events | Kick-Off-event 07.04.2020 Semester begins 14.04.2020 | | 2nd meeting of mentors and fellows | Semester ends 18.07.2020 | 3rd meeting of mentors and fellows Closing reflections |