Student College at the University in Landau

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The idea of the Student College at the University in Landau follows a peer-to-peer approach: students appointed to the college act as tutors and conduct supplementary and in-depth courses in addition to the regular courses offered. They are accompanied by lecturers who act as mentors. Tutors and mentors apply together as a "tandem". Within the framework of kick-off events and workshops, the tandems receive targeted offers that support them, in particular, in deepening their repertoire of methods and media in teaching.

1 Target

With the establishment of the Student College at the University in Landau, the following goals are focused on:

1. Expansion and depth of course offerings in the Faculty that align with the students’ and instructors’ needs (e.g., Tutorials, exercises, participating in existing courses etc.)
2. 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)
3. Support of instructors as members of the College: Support in the teaching, feedback from guiding the student member and growth as a mentor

2 Organisation and procedure
2.1 Advertisement

Before the start of the semester, student assistantships are advertised at a gross amount of approx. 300 euros per month for the duration of an entire semester (six months). Students who would like to deepen their knowledge by passing it on to other students can apply for one of the positions with their own teaching idea - in consultation with a specialist lecturer (→ mentor). The members of the Student College accompany existing courses or take on courses that supplement the regular teaching programme, amounting to about four hours of teaching per week. In addition, they receive targeted offers to deepen their knowledge through teaching, exchange of experience and further training opportunities.

2.2 Application

Before applying, interested students look for a subject lecturer with whom the planned teaching idea should be based and who will then accompany them as a mentor through the semester. They then apply with a PDF file containing the following information:

- Cover letter outlining your motivation
  - What motivated you to take part in teaching?
  - What personal goals do you associate with applying to the Student College?
- Teaching idea (amount of about four hours of teaching per week)
  - What concept do you want to pursue in your teaching idea?
  - 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?
  - Goals of the course: Which subject-specific and interdisciplinary competences should the participants acquire at the end of the course?
- Curriculum vitae
- Document of exams results (KLIPS-Grades)

The respective mentor will be informed by the head of the Student College after the application has been submitted and asked for a statement.

2.3 Selection

After the application deadline, the management committee - consisting of three representatives from each of the four faculties at the University in Landau - selects the students for the coming semester. The number of students selected is based on the current budget for the semester, and the selection criteria are based on the information required for the application (see 2.2). Upon successful admission, the students are members of the Student College for one semester. Repeated admission to the Student College is possible.
2.4 **Kick-off-seminar**
At the beginning of each funding period, a group retreat takes place with a joint kick-off seminar for the fellows. The full-day kick-off seminar serves, among other things, to convey the basics of higher education didactics. The discussion of the developed teaching ideas plays an important role.

2.5 **Tutorials**
During the lecture period of the semester, the members of the Student College accompany existing or take over supplementary courses to the extent of about four hours of teaching per week. These can be different formats, such as tutorials, exercises or practicals. The mentors are important contact persons for the lecturers in case of technical and didactical questions. The additional current teaching offers are announced campus-wide via the university website, notices and mailing lists.

2.6 **Workshops**
In addition, the students are offered workshops during the semester, e.g., on the topics of rhetoric and self-organisation. As multipliers, the members of the Student College pass on the knowledge they have acquired to the students participating in their courses.

2.7 **Group mentoring**
The group of members of the Student College meets regularly in an informal way to share their experiences.

2.8 **Accompanying Evaluation**
An accompanying evaluation checks the extent to which the goals set by the Student College are achieved:

**Goal 1:** Expansion and depth of course offerings in the Faculty that align with the students’ and instructors’ needs
- Evaluating the quality of the courses offered
- Improvement of the learning success of the students in the study programme

**Goal 2:** Support of students as member of the College
- Evaluation of the development of knowledge in the subject area.
- Evaluation of the development of academic self-concept, subject interest, motivation as well as self-regulatory and social competences

**Goal 3:** Support of instructors as members of the College
- Evaluation of the relief in teaching
- Evaluation of further development as a mentor

2.9 **Reflection and final meeting**
The final reflection on the specific additional course is essentially carried out directly between the fellow and the accompanying mentor. Even during the lecture period, both are in close contact to reflect on the planning and organisation of the course as well as its implementation. At the end of the funding period, the participating fellows receive a certificate.