

A potential assessment designed for female pupils at the gateway between high-schools and universities

tasteMINT – The Project

tasteMINT is an innovative personal potential assessment centre. It is designed to motivate female high-school graduates to start an academic career in one of the MINT subjects (in english often referred to as STEM): mathematics, informatics, natural sciences, or technology.

During a three days project, the graduates participate in an assessment of their potential through corresponding tasks and extensive feedback that is given by trained assessors. The goal is to enable the graduates to experience and examine their competences in order to gain a strengthening but realistic self-assessment.

In addition to this, the graduates have the possibility to gain a firsthand insight into student life and the challenges they can expect to face if they choose to study a MINT subject.

In 2009 tasteMINT was provided by three German universities and one university of applied sciences. In 2010 at least three further universities are going to offer tasteMINT. Participation is free of charge for pupils.

tasteMINT – Summarized

- 12 female participants spend
- 3 days at
- 1 university and pass
- 5 practical tasks in teams of
- 4 persons and are observed by circa
- 6 assessors. Afterwards they get
- 5 individual feedbacks and
- 1 final documentation.

tasteMINT – Aims

- Recruiting more young women into MINT-related fields of studies
- Encouraging girls to enter careers in one of the MINT subjects
- Avoiding university drop-outs due to a lacking knowledge of subjects and their contents

The Practical Tasks

The practical tasks last between 45 and 60 minutes and have to be passed in teams of 3 or 4 participants. The task "social competencies" is a 10 to 15 minutes task that has to be passed alone.



Mathematics

Different tasks from applied mathematics and theoretical mathematics have to be worked on and presented in teamwork.



Informatics

Doing informatics without a computer? This task illustrates how it can be done by developing and optimising a search function in a team.



Natural Sciences/Physics

A well known natural phenomenon has to be explained, reasoned and presented as a model. This has to be done in teamwork and by individual research.



Technology

Rotating between teamwork and individual work the carrying capacity of different materials has to be tested, calculated and generated in a diagram.



Social Competencies

Facing a new situation at the university and the need for taking part in or building study groups are simulated in a role-playing. Every participant has to go through this task alone.

For further information please visit:

www.tastemint.de or contact grosskopf@kompetenzz.de.

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