

APPENDIX F: Sample of Coded Transcript

This appendix comprises the coded transcript of the interview conducted with Ivan (EB). This was the second interview conducted in the overall process.

The column to the right of the transcript lists the initial codes assigned to the text. Reference to the codes listed demonstrates the style of coding used in the initial data analysis. That is, line-by-line coding using gerunds.

In the transcript certain changes have been made in an effort to protect the anonymity of the interviewee.

Transcript: Interview with Ivan

Course: EB2
Gender: Male
Age: 20

CD: What culture would you say you are?

Ivan: Oh, I've got a bit of an odd family. My grandmother was German, my father was born in England, but moved to Germany as part of the army corps cos my granddad was in the British army. And he lived in Germany for five years and he moved back to Dublin and my grandfather toured cos he was a singer. So my father never got to see him a huge amount so he lived with his aunt most of the time. All my mom's side would be pretty much Irish bog-standard in the Anglo-saxon kind of background is still there somewhere.

Having a diverse family history;

CD: Why did you come to DCU?

Ivan: I decided that I wanted to do Business and German and I looked into UCD, being the closest to my house. And I asked about 'Do you give work experience?', 'No', 'How long are you abroad?', 'One year', and I saw DCU...two years abroad, two different work placements and said that's much better....two work placements, one in Ireland and one in Germany. It sounded really good. I looked into Trinity but it was pretty much the same as UCD. It looked exactly the same. And I had heard so many people say the DCU is an amazingly good college and very good for employment and practical hands on.

Deciding to come to DCU;

CD: And what about your social network here? What's your social life here like?

Hearing good reports about DCU;

Ivan: Well, my first day when I turned up I was so alone cos I knew nobody. I'm one of two people from my school, and we had 120 people in my year and I'm one of two and the other fella only came because he was offered a scholarship. So, social life...I kinda organised recently, you know Doyles in town, on

Being alone on Day 1;

Tuesday nights they have a thing called the ‘Ruby Sessions’ and I kinda introduced everyone in EB to that. Now they are all going independently of me. It’s 5 euro, its goes to the Simon community, and they have random acts.

CD: So your social life has improved has it?

Ivan: Em, well I live so, so far away. I have to...I’m not really a big ‘clubs’ person. I much prefer being in a room actually able to talk to people rather than screaming at drunken friends.

CD: When you mean ‘clubs’ you mean nightclubs?

Ivan: Yeah, nightclubs. Ah clubs and socs are great. I’m not a big fan of nightclubs. I prefer to sit in the pub. It’s cheaper usually and you actually get to talk to people. It’s comfortable and relaxed and I think that’s how it should be. I don’t really get to do that as much as I would like with my friends, because everyone says it’s great, you have a 15 hour week, but in reality I spend at least 3 to 4 hours travelling every day, so it’s really tiring. Having to get up at 6:45 for a 9am lecture. You can’t really go out if you have to be up at that time.

CD: Yeah. And so would you have many friends in DCU?

Ivan: Oh yeah, I know lots of people but I don’t necessarily get to go out with them that much. Like if someone is having a house party in Shanowen or something I will try to go to that. The Germans are great for that.

CD: Ok, an in terms of DCU, do you think there is diversity in the DCU student body?

Ivan: How do you mean, the student body? Like the president?

CD: No, I mean as in all the students.

Organising social activities off campus;

Living far from campus making socialising difficult;

Preferring talking to clubbing;

Socialising in a Pub;

Living far from campus making socialising difficult;

Not socialising with other students often;

CD students socialising in private sphere;

Ivan: Oh. Oh definitely. When you are walking around you suddenly pick up on ‘Oh that person is German’... always hear things, literally just walking around you hear so many different languages. Even like when I was walking from Henry Grattan to the Business School, some people were speaking Irish, you don’t usually hear that every day. And then two other guys were ...I assume they’re from the India/Asia region, they were speaking whatever language they speak. There’s just so many different languages all over the place. I suppose that’s how Ireland is moving at the moment in general. You go from 1989 we had 20% unemployment and now everything is dandy! Oh we’ve got 50,000 eastern Europeans we *need* for lower pay jobs I suppose. But to them it’s higher paid. But we do *need* more foreign people. Well, foreign workers.

CD: *So in terms of the culturally diverse students in DCU, where are they from?*

Ivan: Well, the majority I would say are from Western Europe. I know one Slovak guy but I would say mostly Western Europe. There are a lot of Orientals though. Say like China, Japan...would India go into the Orient? That would be more Asia-ish. But I have never come across any one from South America or North America really. They are all kinda east of us.

CD: *And how are these students different to Irish students?*

Ivan: Physical appearance ... some people are obviously different colours and accents and those sort of things....I don’t know about mentality...they generally...some of them keep to themselves, some of them don’t.

CD: *Which ones would keep to themselves?*

Ivan: From my own experience I would say that Asians would tend to keep to their own little groups. But our Germans, they are always trying to organise, even for the new Irish first years, they are trying to organise...

Being aware of linguistic diversity in DCU;

Being aware of changes in Ireland;

Defining culture based on nationality;

Differentiating CD students based on appearance;

CD students being heterogeneous;

Asian students mixing with each other;
Having little contact with Asian students;

'Come on, let's go make party!' ...this kinda stuff. They try to like, they are always 'Come on!'. They are sending us emails saying they want to see their Irish friends out cos the EB society is completely dominated by all the foreigners. The Irish students sign up and don't do anything. They just sit back and relax.

CD: And why don't they?

Ivan: I don't know. I think it might be how it's generally run, cos I know all the top positions are run by 3rd and 4th year EBF and EBG.

CD: Are Irish students forced to join this EB society? Or they just do?

Ivan: No, they do. But the majority would be, I'd say, the international students and most of the top people, most involved in it, would be the foreign students. I think that's just their mentality, especially the Germans. They *really* like to get involved. 'Good for the CV' kinda stuff.

CD: And when you talk about international students how would you define them?

Ivan: Em, international students would be people who are not from Ireland, studying in Ireland, people who have not done their Leaving Cert here...not the conventional route of getting into college. Or from other universities, doing exchanges.

CD: And on your course is there much cultural diversity?

Ivan: Eh, yeah. There's no...we have Spanish but there's no Spanish students, as in actual Spanish people. But there are a lot of German and about six French I think. There are no Americans. There are meant to be. ..Lots of Germans! Some French and that's about it.

CD: How would you say they are different to Irish students, or sorry, are they different to Irish students?

German students showing initiative;
Germans wanting to meet hosts;
Irish students being laid back;
Irish students not getting involved in extracurricular activities;

Irish students not participating due to dominance of CD students;

CD students dominating the EB society;
CD students having different attitudes to Irish students;
Germans being career focused;

Defining international students as not from Ireland;

Defining culture based on nationality;

Having lots of Germans in class;

Ivan: Are they? Well obviously they talk different and have a different mother tongue. Their's is German, ours is English. They, I find that, like I talk to them about it. Some of them say, 'Why don't you speak German the way you speak English?'...They actually speak English the way they would speak German. So they say things like 'Wodka'.

CD: *Oh, accent-wise?*

Ivan: Yeah, they always find that kinda strange. 'Oh, your accent is really good'. 'Well, that's because I put it on!'. 'Oh really, maybe I should try it'. ...I suppose the food they eat as well. I told them....I asked them....like you know one of our great traditions is on Sundays, you get up late and buy all the papers and, cos I work in a shop, we sell like 100 croissants in a day, on a Sunday morning like, some people make a bit of a fry. And they were like, 'What? What do you mean relax on a Sunday?' 'Read the paper?!'. They had no concept of what our Sunday mornings are. 'Maybe you could come over to our house and show us what you do?'. Show you?!'.. 'You don't show! You don't have to do this from this time to this time...it just happens'. They are just like rigid, especially with their projects. Like I am doing a HR project with them at the moment and the day it was up on Moodle they emailed straight away, 'Ok, we are meeting tomorrow'. 'It's only just up like, wooooe!'

CD: *And were you assigned to that group?*

Ivan: No, they asked me because I was a native English speaker. To correct their English. As well, I know they are very, very good, very motivated like. The Irish ones are like, two weeks beforehand goin, 'Ah yeah, better start that now'.

CD: *Right. So would you have a preference for being in diverse group so?*

Ivan: Ah, yeah, definitely, cos I think that it's always nice to get a different perspective.

Differentiating CD students based on language;

Being complimented by German students;

Germans not being familiar with Irish cultural practices;

Germans being task oriented; Feeling pressure from German students; Having different attitudes towards academic work;

CD students wanting to mix with hosts to improve language skills; Identifying utility in mixing; Irish students leaving academic work until last minute;

They really work very hard. They are ‘We are here to learn’, rather than ‘Ah here, jaysus, I dunno what I’m doing here. The CAO came, it’s grand sure. I’m there.’ ...Probably because there is so much unemployment. Well, not like it’s 50%, but it’s 10% and there’s massive kinda, not problems, but like competition, especially between males as being the bread earners of the families. ‘Go to the best school, go to the best college, get the best degree, work for the best company’. They are very traditional.

CD: At a faculty level, is there much diversity?

Ivan: In our one yes, in BS, the vast majority would be bog standard Irish people, but I know there is some exchange that they do. I’m not too sure if they are Korean or Japanese, but there is definitely some little group that do an exchange. In IBL as well, I think there are Japanese students knocking about. A lot of the IBL people give up their original language and do Japanese.

CD: Really?

Ivan: Yeah. A large amount. There are only 2 people doing German.

CD: Interesting. And in terms of attending a university that has cultural diversity, what are your thoughts on it? Or would you have any thoughts on it?

Ivan: How do you mean?

CD: Well, is it relevant to your education? Is it good, is it bad, is it...?

Ivan: It’s always nice to see an insight into a new culture I guess. I don’t know how relevant. People are here to learn and obviously develop a certain amount of social skills and that involves interacting with different cultures and that’s part of your experience in college. It’s always nice, to have, like ‘Oh yeah, I went to college with this guy from Germany’ and maybe go over and meet

Perceiving a value in mixing with CD students;
Germans having strong work ethic;
Irish students lacking clear goals;
Germans being very competitive;
Defining Germans as traditional;

Being aware of Asian students;

Valuing diversity in higher education;

Interacting with others being part of learning experience;

them or whatever. Experience that sort of thing. Meet someone completely random, like a Canadian person. It's always nice to meet different people.

CD: And in terms of how you learn, do you think it has any impact?

Ivan: Not unless your actual lecturer, or tutorial person is not your bog standard Irish teacher. Not Irish the language obviously.

CD: And through any contact with students themselves?

Ivan: Hmm ... well...yeah ... For one of our courses we have to come up with a CV and a cover letter and it's great that I have the Germans there so they can actually correct my German and pretty much go 'Oh yeah, I have a few CVs on my laptop' and like I give them my brother's and my Mom's as examples, because there's such a difference when it comes to CVs and things like that. It's unbelievable. They have a little picture, and where you're born and this sort of thing. Completely weird things. Our teacher pretty much got it when she said, in Ireland you would pretty much say 'I play tennis', in Germany would say 'I am a very good tennis player' and in America you would say 'I am the greatest tennis player ever'. That kind of difference across the board.

CD: And so do you have much contact with students from other cultures here?

Ivan: Well obviously the Germans. I'm very close to them like. Anyone doing Business Studies will spend four years together. Well I am going to spend four years with them. They are part of the class.

CD: And how did you meet them?

Ivan: Hmm...good question....I think I was just standing outside after a lecture and said 'You're from Germany aren't you?' And they said 'Yeah'. And you know the way some Germans spend a year abroad, like one of the

Valuing diversity in higher education;

Not perceiving a benefit in cultural diversity in student body;

Cooperating with German students;

Identifying utility in mixing;

Defining Irish culture as modest;

Being close with Germans; Foreseeing long term contact with Germans; Having things in common with CD students;

Initiating contact with CD students; Meeting CD students after a lecture;

girls spent a year in America, and I asked her, 'So you're from America?', and she said 'No I'm from Germany' [in an America accent] and I was kinda like 'No you're not!'. I said 'You can't be from Germany' in German. And then her accent just completely changed. So I kinda got talking to them and you kinda recognise them and gradually like...and then last year I went to a few parties with them and that was really like insane. They really know how to drink.

CD: And when you talk about 'gradually getting to know them', how does that happen?

Ivan: Hmm, I suppose first thing is you recognise them and know who is in your course and then get someone's phone number and meet up or whatever and then start going to parties and then, I dunno, things just develop the way they do...relationships kinda develop.

CD: And when did you first meet them?

Ivan: Eh, it took a while in first year. Things kinda start off slowly cos everyone was a bit scared! A bit scared or intimidated I guess cos everyone is in first year and you've never done anything like college before in their lives.

CD: So when you say 'everyone' you mean 'everyone', Irish and German?

Ivan: Yeah. Well they all cluster together and for the first week I wasn't too sure who was doing German until we were in the German language class. And then you got to meet your little immediate Irish German group before you kinda spread out and meet the other German group.

CD: And in terms of initiating the contact, where did that come from? I mean did you initiate it, or did the lecturer make sure you all mixed...?

Ivan: No, no...there was nothing to do with DCU anyway. Nobody pushed us together. We kinda just....I suppose there was an

Linking accent with nationality;

Developing relationships with CD students over time;
Socialising with CD students over time;
Germans being able to drink a lot;

Identifying students in your course;
Exchanging mobile numbers;
Developing relationships with CD student over time;

Taking a while to meet CD students;
Being anxious at start of college;
Starting slowly due to anxiety;

Clustering during first week of college;
Getting to know your classmates first;
Spreading out to meet CD students;

Not being pushed together;

agreement on both sides, that we are gonna be spending years together so we might as well get to know each other. I suppose intrigue...well I like am a big believer that in order to learn a language you have to speak it and you have to speak it with people. So I wanted to get to know them to actually speak German as much as they wanted to get to know us.

CD: Would you be fluent in German because of your grandparents' history?

Ivan: Well, I was never taught German at home, but like since I arrived here it's just going through the roof. It's like, woe, I never knew I could do that.

CD: But you did it for Leaving Cert?

Ivan: Yeah.

CD: And would you consider them your friends?

Ivan: Yeah, course. There's no communication issues. Generally I don't know one word or they won't know another one and we're able to use the two languages to communicate. Doesn't matter which one we're speaking. We just interweave.

CD: And where would you have most contact with them?

Ivan: Hmm, I suppose after lectures more than during like. Afterwards we'd be like, 'Ok, we've a 2 hour break now. Do you wanna get coffee or something?'. That kinda idea.

CD: And how come during lectures there wouldn't be ... ?

Ivan: Cos generally people come in at different times. And they are usually early. Punctual as German people are. So, we're generally like, 'Oh crap, I'm 10 minutes late!' In a big hall like. Easy to bump into them and say hello or whatever, trying to get their names.

Shared course being reason for mixing;
Time spent together as a motive to get to know other; Identifying utility in mixing; Having a mutually beneficial relationship with CD students;

Improving German due to contact with Germans;

Pooling skills to overcome language barriers;

Interweaving linguistically;

Meeting directly after lectures;

Germans being punctual for class;
Irish students being late for class;

CD: Are there any reasons why would have contact with Germans students and not with students from other cultures?

Ivan: I suppose, like, I am doing German I guess. But I do know some of the French people. I have talked to them. I wouldn't be as friendly with them. Much like the French Irish students wouldn't be as friendly with the Germans. I suppose it's pretty similar.

Having a reason to get to know CD students;
Mixing with students you have something in common with;

CD: And then in DCU in general would you have contact with, with any Asian students?

Ivan: I'm reasonably good friends with a Slovak guy called Gustav and through the fencing club I know another Slovak and he's really nice.

Meeting with CD students through clubs and socs;

CD: Ok. And any Asian students?

Ivan: Eh, no. They're not in any of my clubs or societies or any of my lectures. I have no 'way' of really contacting them. You do see them around but I have never really met them socially or anything like that.

Being separated from Asian students;
Not having chance to meet Asian students;

CD: And would you go the bar here much?

Ivan: Last year we used to have, on Thursdays, we used to have 5 straight hours, so usually after that we'd usually just go to the bar for 2 hours, it was more of a tradition. But...I have been meaning to go out but I have to go home, get dinner, come all the way back, so it's another add on. I usually fall asleep anyway. Where am I gonna stay? It's a bit hard.

Living far from campus making socialising difficult;

CD: Would your relationship with students from other cultures be different to your relationship with Irish students?

Ivan: Hmm... intriguing question. Wouldn't say so, I don't look at them any differently or anything, 'Bloody Germans!' or anything. I wouldn't look at them any differently or treat them any differently. We're all part of the great EU family after all.

Identifying with EU students;
Treating Germans like Irish students;

CD: And in terms of what you discuss...

Ivan: Eh, we talk about music and stuff like that in the same way you talk to your friends about stuff. And you talk to your friends about them the same way you would talk to them about your friends. They're just exactly the same, there's no like, major difference. They do things a slightly different way, or talk a bit different, say things a bit funnier, but they're still the same.

CD: And is it easier to meet Irish students than students from other cultures here in DCU in general?

Ivan: I'd say so.... dunno why.... Why would it be?.....Hmm, I suppose it depends on what the type of person is. If a person is very reserved, like you can get perfectly normal Irish people who will be very reserved and keep to themselves and want to be alone and not go out or do anything. Like equally, you could have a foreign student who is very like that. But I suppose it's pretty hard for them, they kinda should have to make an effort to like meet new people. ...the foreign students that is. Cos like they are in a foreign country! They are kinda there to mix or to learn through English.

CD: And do you think that they want to mix?

Ivan: Yeah, I'd say it's a bit of a confidence issue like. Even for me, coming here on my own, it was a big deal. But generally I do like to do things on my own. Lots of people have issues about, like, 'I would never travel on my own', but I wouldn't mind doing that. So I suppose it depends on what type of person rather than where they are from....Obviously there are certain issues with certain cultures, about how you approach people I suppose. Like the Germans say we are incredibly friendly because in Germany you never open the door for other people. Like whenever you are going into the Business School you always put your hand back and make sure the person behind you gets in. In Germany you just open the door and let it go like. They say 'You are incredibly friendly'. And we always say

Having things to talk about with German students;

Not perceiving differences with Germans;

Minimising difference;

Personality as a major factor in mixing with others;

Assigning responsibility to CD students;

Confidence helping mixing;

Personality as a major factor in mixing with others;

Differentiating Irish and German culture based on politeness;

'Please' and 'Thank you', but if you don't feel the service is up to a certain standard you don't say please and thank you in Germany. Even if someone punched you in the face, you'd probably go 'Ah, sorry'. That kinda idea. Its' just the way we are... We just apologise and say thank you for everything!

CD: So is it easier for you to have contact with students from some cultures than other cultures?

Ivan: Oh...well...like my family...We take in students from DIT so we've had people from Korea, working for the government. Paraguayans and Argentines and we had a Kuwaiti and everyone probably has this warped idea about what Kuwaitis are like, but he was the nicest person in the world. He'd take your plate and wash it for you and give it back to you and insist that he will make the tea. He was just really, really nice and polite. He was great. And now we have a Korean guy who is literally, is not even gonna tell you that he is not going to come home for dinner and you have the dinner waiting for him. He is just the rudest person in the world. He thinks the house is a hotel and he can come or go whenever he wants. Like the one time he was home for dinner he spent the whole time on his phone. He makes no effort to talk to the family at all. If I was staying with a family I would think of it like, they can easily help me with my language cos they are native speakers. And they would be happy to help. It's no big deal sitting around after. Like usually with the 'better' students, usually you spend nearly an hour after dinner just talking to them, chatting about stuff. About their country and how different it is...We've been invited to people's weddings like. We've been invited to a wedding in Singapore. One guy over the summer said his complete outlook on life changed cos my Mam used to nag him about a bit. My brother is in the USA so since he's gone she has no one to nag so she started nagging him...He was from Japan and he thanked her for giving out to him. 'You have changed me'. When he came to Ireland his life

Defining Irish culture as non-confrontational;

Being used to people from other cultures;

Dispelling stereotypes via contact;

Criticising Korean's behaviour;

Linking contact with utility;

Being used to people from other cultures;

was all about, materialistic, what I'm wearing, what I won. When he left, he said 'My life is so much more than what I'm wearing now'. He was so happy. He didn't have a penny but he was so happy.

CD: And would you say that your past experience before you came to DCU...

Ivan: Helped me?...I suppose yeah. Like since I've been able to walk I've had students living in my house. And been like 'Come on, let's play football' and they're like 'fo-ot-ball?'. And you go to the park and play with them and you wouldn't be able to talk to them, but you'd still understand. Like with Italian students you'd talk about Schilaci, and they'd be like, 'Yeah, Schilaci!'.

CD: And how has that helped you here?

Ivan: I suppose it's given me confidence to go up and talk to people more than anything else. Interact with people. Cos I find that Irish people tend to be that bit more reserved. Not as open. Not necessarily as open minded, but a bit blind to other cultures. Like, we've never had so many foreign people working in Ireland, or being around.

CD: And tell me, as an Irish student, what things would reduce the likelihood of meeting students from other cultures?

Ivan: Reduce it? Emm, if you don't get involved in clubs and societies and the course you've chosen.

CD: And apart from proximity, would there be anything that could still make it difficult?

Ivan: Bad experiences in the past I think. I think if you've...like a manager in our shop...I don't want to bad-mouth people, but he had problems with Romanians who would just keep coming and robbing stuff. Like constantly. So I suppose experiences like that. If you have had constant bad experiences with certain cultures, of certain ways people

Changing outlook due to cross-cultural contact;

Communicating based on commonalities;

Using commonalities to help communication;

Having confidence to initiative contact;

Defining Irish people are reserved and closely to cultural diversity;

Not participating in college being a barrier to mixing;

Negative experiences of IC contact leading to avoidance;

look ...suppose like the whole Muslim issue of the head dress and that sort of stuff.

CD: Really?

Ivan: Yeah. Like the way with our Saudi friends ... my friend came up with a brilliant point that in Ireland you don't have to wear a head scarf, so if we go over to Saudi Arabia, why should we have to do what they want us to do?

CD: So you reckon your past experiences would definitely...

Ivan: ...would definitely influence people. Like obviously some people still have a chip on their shoulders about the Germans.

CD: And anything else you think would hinder contact assuming they are in the same environment?

Ivan: Hinder....unless they have certain ideas about what certain cultures are like. Like Germans...'Oh they wear Lederhosen and drink a lot of beer'. Kinda stereotypical clichés. ...People obviously not being very open-minded about things.

CD: When you say 'open minded' what....

Ivan: Well, obviously accepting of different cultures. Like not seeing things, saying that Irish people are utterly different to British people when they are not at all. Obviously there are different traits, but still very similar. Some cultures are obviously very similar but Mary Harney saying that we are closer to Boston than Berlin, well obviously, because we both came from British culture....people not being very open minded as to where they came from.

CD: And as regards actually maintaining contact, is there anything that reduces the likelihood of that?

Advocating equal treatment;

Negative experiences of IC contact leading to avoidance;

Stereotypes hindering good relations;

Being open-minded;

Ivan: Well, obviously travelling. Like if they move away. Losing their email or something like that. No one really writes letters anymore.

CD: So overall, what are the main factors that create obstacles for Irish students meeting or engaging with students from other cultures in DCU...

Ivan: Well, eh... physical ones. Like, I know that a lot of exchange students do live over in Shanowen. A lot of them do, like obviously, are on the other side of where the other people live. There are still people who have to share a dorm with them, not a dorm but...share like a room with them. I know like one of the girls lives on campus and her friend lives with a Swiss guy and a guy from Nigeria I think and two French guys. Like he's like the one 'odd' one. He said he woke up one morning to make breakfast and there was just a load of French people there! He was like... 'Eh. Am I in the right apartment?'. It took him a while to get to know them cos they are obviously there at different times....Like girls tend to be a lot more friendly than boys.

CD: Really?

Ivan: Yeah, there's one point for you.

CD: Irish girls or girls in general?

Ivan: Girls in general, cos most of the German girls have more made the effort. I suppose it might stem back to the whole hunter gatherer thing....certainly females will stay together and makes will go off on their own I guess. Most groups of boys that I know like....generally there is only 4 or 5 lads would hang around together while there might be 10 or 12 girls that hand around in bigger groups. There's not that many small groups of girls and not that many big groups of boys. I suppose that....a male female gender thing...

CD: And apart from that, and the idea of physical proximity, are there any other things in general...in your opinion...

Students communicating via technology;

Living arrangements hindering contact;

Seeing girls more friendly
more boys;

Gender influencing group dynamics;

Ivan: I suppose it's very hard to ...well it's not really hard... to physically go up to someone and go 'Hi, I'm Ivan' and say, you go, 'So where are you from?' and it turns out that they actually *are* from Ireland!. So you're kinda like 'Oh right! Ehhh...I've got a bus to get!' [laughs]...like most people wouldn't go out of their way to... 'Oh they look different, I better go up and talk to them!'. Most people wouldn't necessarily do that I suppose. You'd be more likely to talk to whoever sits beside you rather than, 'Oh there's someone in the corner, they look like they're from China, I better go up and talk to them and see what they're like'.

CD: *And would they not be sitting beside someone from China?*

Ivan: Generally they do tend to run all the way up to the front and sit there like, that's what I think.

CD: *Why do you think that is?*

Ivan: Maybe it's to do with us speaking English very badly and the whole clarity of wanting to hear and being on an exchange or whatever and being...wanting to actually learn. I suppose they'd be that little bit more motivated in that sense, cos obviously ya have to spend a little bit more time than a native speaker would studying, cos it'd be harder to hear. You wouldn't catch everything. Like taking notes for me, in German, I'm kinda very slow at taking notes in German. But even in English like, I'm not the fastest like, so obviously for people to write down what they are meant to be learning in a different language.

CD: *And do Irish students not sit at the front?*

Ivan: Eh...generally no...unless they are mature students...[laughs]

CD: *Really?*

Avoiding contact due to embarrassment;

Not going out of one's way to mix;

CD students sitting at the front;

CD students being more motivated than Irish;

CD students having to work harder to understand coursework;

Ivan: Yeah, all the mature students sit generally right up the front.

CD: Why is that?

Ivan: I dunno. Actually there is a little bit of a divide I suppose between the mature students. Like in Business they are very easy to spot cos they're up the front.

CD: And would there be mature students in EB now?

Ivan: No in EB, there's one in EBS but he left I think. But the ones in Business Studies, and most of Business Studies is what we are doing, a lot them they're pretty easy to spot. They're always up the front. I suppose it's like 'I've got a wife and kids at home, I'm doing this for them!'. There's one French girl who is a mature student, she used to be a French teacher, and she wanted to work in business so she said, I better do a degree...

CD: Interesting. And then what factors or conditions do you think actually facilitate Irish students meeting students from other cultures in DCU?

Ivan: Eh, we certainly, some of the clubs. I think, it is Globallink? Is that actually one of those societies actually set up for people like me....being a native speaker of English but learning German. Partnered with another person not from Ireland and you have to talk to each other and correct each other's language and such. There are a few societies. Like there's the German society and I think the French one and whatever. I know there's a Chinese one as well. Certain societies I think...it's funny though, I think the German one is dominated by Irish people and EB is dominated by German people...it's just ridiculous. [laugh]. You'd think there'd be a bit of a mix!

CD: So theoretically the Clubs and Socs could...

Ivan: Yeah they could very easily do that, but is there any major problem or issue? I don't think there is .. like major problems or

Mature students sitting at the front;

Differentiating between Mature and Irish students;

Mature students being more motivated than mainstream Irish;

Clubs and Socs facilitating mixing;

CD students dominating the EB society;

Being satisfied with current status;

issues...with people interacting like. Or is there?!

CD: So are they interacting?

Ivan: Yeah. Well, especially in our one. Like all the French girls...we're pretty much all the same. There's no major difference. Apart from them living over there and us being a bit scattered all over the place. 'You take ze bas? Oh wow! I have never taken ze bas in my life. I usually dwive.' That kinda idea.

CD: And do you think Irish students need any particular skills if they want to engage and communicate with students from other cultures that they don't need in order to communicate with Irish students?

Ivan: Em....well, need to have some sort of knowledge of the actual country that they are dealing with. To actually...one of the first questions... 'Where are you actually from?' If you have no idea of a German map and they said 'Munich', like that's a piece of information that means absolutely nothing to me. At least you can place it and go 'Oh that's in southern Germany, that's near whatever and you can talk about like, 'That's near the Alps. I like to climb mountains. Do you like to climb mountains?'. That kinda' idea. So you need some sort of background of what the society is like. Like if you talk to a North Korean person, I have no idea what to say to them. All I know is that they're a communist country and apparently they've got nuclear weapons. So, you go, 'So, nuclear weapons eh?! How's that working out for ya?' [laughs]. Like what could you talk to like? At least a South Korean person, you know Soeul, you know certain companies, 'So what's South Korea like?' and I have some background from actually talking to people from South Korea who have lived in the house for a little while. Like that sort of stuff. You would need some sort of background.

CD: And then, apart from background knowledge, anything else? Any communication skills or anything like that?

Living arrangements hindering contact;

Cultural knowledge helping communication;

Needing background information to communicate;

Familiarity with culture helping contact;

Ivan: Em, communication skills ..well certain things that you say in English you should never say in German. Like 'Ich bin Heiss'. If you change that it actually means 'I am in heat!' Certain things like that. ...other things...skills....well I suppose you have to be ... some people are very reserved and don't tend to talk to people. They have to really, really trust people before they'll talk to them. People who have issues...[short laugh]

CD: And does DCU promote contact between culturally diverse students?

Ivan: I don't think there's anything really organised around cultural diversity I suppose. I wouldn't say so. They do have talks I think, but what good is that?, like academics...how does that affect people?, actually on our level like? It's a talk not a...like you can't force people into doing things if they're not willing to do them. I suppose it's sort of an attitude.

CD: And do your lecturers?

Ivan: I suppose lecturers are more, I suppose, geared towards 'This is the course and we have x amount of time and we have to learn it and you better learn it'. The lecturers wouldn't necessarily go 'And here are our German friends. Would anyone like to go and talk to them?' They wouldn't necessarily, cos that would just embarrass the people I guess.

CD: And would they encourage group work?

Ivan: No, they never do that. There are no stipulations about that...

CD: What would you think if they started to do that?

Ivan: It would force people to start communicating and obviously you'd have to get to know people. Cos I think last year our first assignment, nearly all the Germans did theirs together. And I had the idea like, well why does one Frenchie, one German, one Irish, one whatever just have a bit of it mixed, like

Needing communication skills to mix well;

Personality as a major factor in mixing with others;

Criticising lack of institutional support for mixing;

Needing to be willing to mix;

Lecturers focusing on academic work only;

Lectures not encouraging group work;

Advocating assigned groups to facilitate mixing;

rather than just constantly staying with your own individual group like, cos ours was only made of 4 people and like I don't want to stay with the same 4 people ..I want to mix a little bit.

CD: And why did you want to mix?

Ivan: Cos they're here in College and there's so many people and it's not like in school where ya had your little group and that was it. Yeah you knew the other people, but there's no way you're ever gonna know everybody in college. Like everyone in second year. There's just no way you're ever gonna do it. You might as well try to get to know the people in your course. Like there's about 100, 150 people like. You might as well make some sort of any effort to get to know them. Cos you're only here with the Irish people for 2 years. You're together with all the Germans for 4. So you might as well make some sort of an effort. I'm sure they wouldn't mind having a native speaker to correct certain things. We would like a German to correct all our work. ..the whole pooling of resources. That sort of way. Like with the CV I had no idea how completely different the German CV is...like their cover letter is basically saying 'I am great'.

CD: So, would you personally like to have more contact with students from other cultures in DCU?

Ivan: Eh. I think I know too many Germans. I think I am too concentrated on one group like. I think it would be nice like to have more....diverse friends.

CD: And why would you want that?

Ivan: It's always nice to know different societies. They always have different ways of saying things...it's always fun as well. I always find it hilarious the way some foreign people say certain things. The Germans say 'I wrote the exam' and I say 'No you didn't, you did the exam!'. It's funny to mess around and

Irish students wanting to mix;

Time spent together as a motive to get to know other;

Making an effort to meet CD students due to time together;

Identifying utility in mixing;

Having too many friends from one culture;
Wanting more diverse friends;

Enjoying learning about other cultures as a reason to mix;

see what a different culture is like. Poke fun at it.

CD: Do you think in general that culturally diverse students want to mix with Irish students?

Ivan: Eh...I suppose it comes back to want sort of person you are. Are they really outgoing....there are people in college who are like 'These are the greatest days of my like, I have to make the most of it!' and there are people who are like 'Eh, this is college eh? Lots of people walking round doing stupid things.' There are loads of different types of people so I suppose it does depend on the type of person...personality.

CD: And in general would you say they want to meet Irish students?

Ivan: Yeah. I should hope so. I can't exactly talk for them but my impression is yeah. A lot of them do have Irish friends. I have Germans anyway and lots of them have other friends apart from our little group. With other Irish people...through the societies I suppose.

CD: And why would you think they might want to meet Irish students?

Ivan: I suppose it's not that they would want to, but it just kinda happens. Some of them like....2 of the guys live with 2 Irish guys. And then all their friends come over and the get to know them. I suppose friendships just kinda happen. It's not like 'Ok, today you're going to meet one Irish new person, name is John, he has blonde hair...' Things don't really happen like that, or maybe they do [laugh].

CD: Tell me, in the canteen, would you eat together?

Ivan: You don't necessarily eat together. But last year we did ... if I ever stayed over in their house, I would say 'Ok I'll cook you dinner, kinda that idea'. Cos they obviously cook things differently to the way we cook

Personality as a major factor in mixing with others;

Experience of college being determined by personal outlook;

Assigning responsibility to CD students;

Germans meeting Irish through clubs and socs;

Cohabiting helping mixing with CD students;

CD students not being strategic about meeting Irish students;

Not having lunch with CD students;

things. ...in the canteen....yeah....I have gone to lunch with them a few times, but our breaks are sometimes different cos we might have German language classes and they might have free time and then we have free time and they have Irish literature or something and so our timetables aren't exactly the same like. For all the core subjects they overlap.

CD: Is there anything that students from other cultures do that reduces the probability of them mixing with Irish students?

Ivan: Eh...sometimes I find that...some of them tend to like....you know the way like...sometimes they try tohow do I put this?... they try to take their whole village and bring it to where they are...they're not like, 'Ok let's try Irish potatoes, Irish stew, all these sort of things'...they're not like open to like... 'No I want to drink my German coffee and smoke my German cigarette and read my German paper like'. Not like 'I'm in a completely different country, I better start buying'...like em, we went over to Germany during the summer, and the girls pretty much said from the moment I get over to Germany I'm gonna buy two boxes of crisps and get them sent over because I can't live without crisps cos they don't sell them in shops and I was like 'Deal with it!' Obviously things are gonna be different.

CD: Ok, I think that's about it...Have you any questions you would like to ask me about it?

Ivan: No, I don't think so.

CD: Sure? Ok so. Well thanks very much. That was really interesting.

Different timetables hindering contact;

Poor adaptation to Irish culture hindering mixing;

END.