



FH Salzburg

Guidelines for Tandem Learning

Tandem learning is a cooperative way of learning a language and discovering a culture. The Tandem partners support each other in an individually organized learning process, e.g. the German speaking partner helps with German, the incoming student with his/her mother tongue.

Tandem learning is considered to be informal learning, thus you are free to decide on the activities that seem interesting to both of you. Many students combine their Tandem session with leisure activities. You are free to choose the activities yourself, make your own timetable etc.

Tandem learning covers both language and intercultural learning. It is up to you which of the two is more important and interesting for you. You may gain 2 ECTS credit points for "Tandem Learning". For this purpose, you hand in the Tandem Learning Portfolio at the end of the semester (no fixed deadline) to your Tandem Learning advisor at the International Office (international@fh-salzburg.ac.at). You may ask for support at any time throughout the semester. Cf. underneath for more details on the grading system.

Here are some suggestions on how you can organize your Tandem Learning Portfolio:

- **Tandem Learning Journal**

After each meeting write a short reflection on the following items:

- the topic of the Tandem session
- what I learnt / what was especially surprising, interesting...
- what helped me particularly / how I could help my Tandem partner.

At the end of the semester you briefly sum up your experience (self-reflection, evaluation): What did I learn (about the language and the culture), which topics did we deal with? How did I improve? Where did my Tandem partner make progress?

This activity is meant to encourage reflective learning and it is ok if you write the end reflection in your mother tongue.

- **Summary, self-corrections and reflection**

Together with your Tandem partner choose at least 5 conversation topics (see also the list below).

In order to get started, all Tandem pairs ought to choose the first topic "Getting to know each other".

Technology
Health
Media

After each Tandem session, you write a brief summary in the language you are learning. You show this summary to your Tandem partner who will read through it and comment on it, e.g. the Tandem partner could highlight a few mistakes which you afterwards correct together.

This activity encourages learning through reflection and helps you to learn from your mistakes.

- **Audio-recording**

Record a conversation with your Tandem partner, approximately 3 minutes (e.g. one recording of a conversation during which you are the language learner and another one when you are the native speaker).

- **Final comment about the Tandem learning experience**

You may as well write in your mother tongue (reflective learning):

- What did you learn through Tandem learning?
- Did you see a progress in your Tandem partner? What was he/she interested in most? Could you help your Tandem partner to improve fluency and expand his/her vocabulary?

- **Tandem Learning Poster**

Make a poster about Tandem learning (introduce your Tandem partner, some words about your Tandem learning experience, some photos, graphs etc.). You may send the poster in .doc(x) or .pdf format.

At the end of the semester, hand in your Tandem Learning Portfolio to the Tandem Learning advisor at the International Office.

ECTS recognition / grade:

In case you wish ECTS recognition (pass / successfully attended), please hand in 1 activity for documentation of your Tandem learning activities, e.g. a Tandem Learning Poster, a Tandem Learning Journal, a final comment about the Tandem learning experience. This corresponds to “Tandem learning B” in the application form.

If you wish to be graded (excellent / “Sehr gut” etc.), which corresponds to “Tandem learning A” in the application form, please include 3 activities in your Tandem Learning Portfolio, e.g.:

- Tandem Learning Journal;
- Summary, self-corrections, reflections on a minimum of 5 conversation topics;
- Audio-recording;
- Final statement about the Tandem learning experience.

Suggestions for conversation topics:

You choose 5 topics from the list below. Topic 1 should be chosen by all Tandem pairs to get started. The list of topics is for your orientation; you can also bring in your own topics.

Topic 1: Getting to know each other (e.g. questionnaire about your studies, family, leisure time, preferences and hobbies).

Topic 2: Clichés, Stereotypes and Traditions

Topic 3: Education Systems, Language Learning Culture in the Tandem Partners’ Countries

- Topic 4: Language and Communication (idiomatic expressions, set phrases, regional language differences, find equivalent expressions for some words of interest in the foreign language...).
- Topic 5: Sports and Events (do sports together; attend a football match etc. together)
- Topic 6: Family, Friends and Acquaintances (photo album, family celebrations, what do we do when friends get married, how do we celebrate birthdays...)
- Topic 7: Film and Music (e.g. see a film together, go to a concert...)
- Topic 8: Arts, Culture and Literature (go to a museum / to the theatre together, a guided visit to the city etc.)
- Topic 9: Politics and Current Events; the Latest News; Economic Situation
- Topic 10: Environment and Sustainability
- Topic 11: Travelling and Leisure Time; Hobbies (e.g. plan a weekend or a trip together)
- Topic 12: Cooking, Eating Habits, Recipes, Kitchen Shows (e.g. prepare typical meals together).
- Topic 13: Youth Culture, Teenage Slang, Life Situation of Young People
- Topic 14: Discover each other's opinions: What does love mean to you? What importance has music in your life? Word rap
- Topic 15: Your suggestion for a topic...

Application:

To register for Tandem Learning, go to this [link](#) or ask your Tandem Learning Advisor, Verena Langwallner, for help: verena.langwallner@fh-salzburg.ac.at