



SPOT ON



Christel Schneider, ICC- Head Office:

First of all, many thanks for giving us the opportunity for our SPOT ON interview.

Walter Horlacher, Hotelfachschule Thun:

I'm happy to introduce the Hotelfachschule Thun, a vocational training college.

The entry requirements for our school are a completed apprenticeship or a school leaving diploma at university entrance level.

We have about 250 students at our school at the moment. The complete training programme takes 2 1/2 years (5 semesters). In their first semester students attend school, in their second semester they have their practical training. All in all the training includes three semesters 'theoretical training' at school and two semesters practical training. School training includes language learning. Students are expected to already have some knowledge of English at A2 level and in French at A1 level.

Students whose mother tongue is other than German need to have passed the 'Zentrale Mittelstufenprüfung' (Goethe-Institute) with grade B (gut) as entry requirements.

Thun is a pleasant small town situated in the [Bernese Oberland](#) in Switzerland.



This is embedded in a touristic area and as a result of its touristic developments professionals in the hospitality business were required. This generated a need for training for middle management positions in the hotel industry.

Christel Schneider, ICC- Head Office:

From what I know there has been some good collaboration between the Hotelfachschule and the ICC over the past years. Why did your Hotelfachschule join the ICC?

Walter Horlacher, Hotelfachschule Thun:

We first came across the ICC in 1998 when the head of our language department was looking for specific language examinations and came across the ICC-Examinations. The ICC had at that time just introduced the revised general ICC English Certificates. As a result of this meeting and some negotiations the idea was born to develop examinations specific to our professional field and that is how the [accueil](#) project got started.

Christel Schneider, ICC- Head Office:

What are the benefits you see in your school's membership of the ICC?

Walter Horlacher, Hotelfachschule Thun:

The greatest benefit we see in our membership is networking with international partner organisations. Together with the ICC and other partners we have developed our [accueil](#) examinations. They are high quality examinations standard following the guidelines of the Common European Framework of References.

We would like to activate the existing network in order to inform our network partners about developments within the framework of our exams and help to promote the [accueil](#) examinations. [accueil](#) is a modular based examination system which could also be transferred to other sectoral areas.

Christel Schneider, ICC- Head Office:

What do you expect from the ICC and its member organisations?

Walter Horlacher, Hotelfachschule Thun:

We would appreciate some support with regard to an international dissemination of the [accueil](#) examinations. Apart from our examination centres in Switzerland we have centres in Poland, Germany and Latvia and would be happy to expand with the help of our international network.

In Switzerland two of our [accueil](#) examinations are officially recognised by the State, Federal Office of Education and Technology,

Christel Schneider, ICC- Head Office:

Thank you, Walter Horlacher, for an interesting interview .