

Ten Things International Students Want You to Know



If I don't seem to understand what you said, please tell me again in a voice which is clearer and slower, but **NOT LOUDER**.



My name may seem unusual to you, but it is important to me. Please try to learn how to pronounce it properly, and don't give me an "American" nickname.



If you are giving me directions on how to get something done for myself, please write them down step by step. Then I should be able to do it right the first time.



If I am just responding "yes" to what you say, I'm probably only affirming that I hear you. This does not mean I understand what you are telling me, so please ask in another way to be sure I understand.



If I seem unusually rude and brisk to you, I am probably just nervous. This is all new and different to me, but with your kindness, patience and understanding, I'll stop worrying.

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My country and my heritage are as important to me as the United States is to you. As you don't want to me to criticize the U.S., please have the same consideration of my home.



Don't be afraid to ask me about my country, family or customs. I want to share my uniqueness with you, and I won't act like you are stupid if you don't know about my background.



Don't finish my sentences for me. Although using English every day is new to me, I need the practice to develop my language skills.



If you don't understand my English, ask me to repeat what I have said until you do. If you think you know what I have asked, rephrase the question and ask me if that is what I meant.



Please remember that I am first and foremost a student here and want to fit in like everyone else. I don't want special favors, just an equal chance.

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