Culture-Learning Strategies Inventory

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The purpose of this inventory is to find out more about yourself as a culture learner and to help you discover strategies that can help you adapt to cultures that are different from your own. Check the box that describes your use of each listed strategy. The categories are: I use this strategy and like it; I have tried this strategy and would use it again; I’ve never used this strategy but am interested in it; and This strategy doesn’t fit for me.

Pre-Departure Strategies

Strategies for when I am in surroundings that are culturally different from what I am used to:

1. Consider ways in which different cultures might view things in different ways (e.g., how different cultures value “alone time” or independence).
2. Figure out what cultural values might be involved when I encounter a conflict or something goes wrong.
3. Think about different cross-cultural perspectives to examine situations in which I seem to offend someone or do something wrong.
4. Use generalizations instead of stereotypes when I make statements about people who are different from me.
5. Counter stereotypes others use about people from my country by using generalizations and cultural values instead.
6. Make distinctions between behavior that is personal (unique to the person), cultural (representative of the person’s culture), and universal (a shared human concern).
7. Look at similarities as well as differences between people of different backgrounds.

What other strategies do I use when I’m in surroundings that are culturally different than what I’m used to?

Note: The next portion of the Culture-Learning Strategies Inventory looks at the culture-learning strategies you think will use once you are in the country of your study abroad experience, referred to in this inventory as your “host country.” If you have studied abroad before, you may want to complete this inventory before you depart for your next study abroad experience. Or you can fill it out by indicating which strategies you think you will likely use in other cross-cultural situations.