

COMMON CULTURAL ISSUES FOR FLEX STUDENTS

The information presented below is a general guide to understanding some of the support issues that FLEX students might encounter. This information speaks only to overall trends and will not hold true in all circumstances, especially since FLEX students come from multiple and diverse countries each presenting their own unique cultures. This guide will hopefully be helpful in attempting to understand the underlying causes of many support cases. **Remember: Your FLEX student may exhibit NONE of these behaviors!**

This chart courtesy of American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS

BEHAVIOR/SUPPORT ISSUE	CULTURAL ROOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Looking for a way around things ▪ "I want..." ▪ Pestering/badgering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Society's approach to problem solving
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ungrateful or demanding attitude 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sense of entitlement due to the wealth of the U.S. Or, a perception that student is a guest (and honored person in their culture) and should be treated as one.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pessimism, complaining ▪ Not smiling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Belief in steady deterioration of society ▪ Acceptable cultural approach to communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excessive need for guidance/support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Close family ties/elders guide children ▪ Children are encouraged to be Dependent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excessive eating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sign of parental affection and wealth ▪ High carbohydrate/fat diet
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exaggerated emotions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acceptable way to show caring and concern
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of eye contact(mainly for females) ▪ Passivity ▪ Preference to stay home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accepted gender role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laziness, disobedience(mainly for males) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accepted gender role; boys are "doted on"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No sense of personal responsibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individuals are de-emphasized ▪ Group problem sharing ▪ Not responsive to psychological Approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inability to manage money ▪ Spends too much or saves all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Money is not easily obtained ▪ Natural family may pressure student to bring money home ▪ If student perceives him/herself as a guest, expectation may be that you should pay
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shoplifting (average has been 1-2 students/year maximum and sometimes none) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Perception that America is rich ▪ Society's belief that getting what you need is a way to survive ▪ Naiveté regarding security in stores