

## **Personal Attributes that Contribute to Successful Living in International Environments (Student quotes)**

**Curiosity:** "I think I am just really fascinated with different cultures and different ways of living." "Keep in mind that you haven't learned everything." "There are always things that you haven't learned."

**Learner:** "Being a learner is big. But not just learning, but using it." "...let people teach you, be open to learning and be observant...be okay being uncomfortable." "Have a desire or willingness to learn and to ask people about how they see things."

**Humility:** "Maybe knowing that there is the potential that the other person has something that they can teach you." "Knowing that you are not going to do everything right." "Ask for help."

**Courage:** "I get judged and ridiculed at times ...You are going to be pushed down." "It is okay to struggle because that is normal." "Be willing to try new things." "Don't be afraid of making a fool out of yourself." "Be comfortable going out of your comfort zone."

**Language:** "Language is a huge part of your identity." "Language plays a huge role in terms of acceptance"

**Cultural Sensitivity:** "Moving into another culture is hard." "Show people that you want to learn, and that you want to learn because you genuinely care about the culture."

**Support Group:** "They understood me and knew where I was coming from." "It helped to build a group that I could identify with." "Just having someone that you can talk to or identify with." "I had somebody that I could trust and I could ask things of without having to worry about them judging me."

**Respect:** "Respect for ideas." "Respect for the country." "Respect for the people." "Respect for the culture." "Wanting to understand them and wanting to really connect with them."

**Flexibility:** Learn to be "comfortable being uncomfortable." "Be willing to do something that you don't want to do." "It's important to mentally acknowledge that your culture is not always right or that it is the only way to do things." I

**Graciousness:** "I kind of expected people to be somewhat interested about where I came from. They weren't" "Not letting little things get to you." "It is important to learn from each other."

**Patience:** "I think a lot of it is familiarity .... It takes a long time." "I need to understand that if someone is born and raised in one area, that is all that they know and I can't hold it against them."

**Open-minded:** "Maybe knowing that there is the potential that the other person has something that they can teach you." "It is not okay to say, I don't know this so I'm not going to bother learning about this." "I really appreciate the people who have taken the time to sit down and talk through differences."

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