

Resources for Teaching International Students:

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<https://www.du.edu/writing/eventsnews/newsletters/14second-language-writers.html>

University of Denver article on how to teach and grade writing from international students.

Ways you can help international students:

- Don't expect them to come to you. Be proactive in reaching out to them. Some ideas include articles or resources you can share with them, particularly based on something the two of you might have already discussed. The interpersonal engagement goes a long way to helping them feel included.
- Invite them directly to participate in activities, clubs, and other opportunities to get involved rather than just notifying the whole group.
- When grading their writing, consider how their language may be structured differently and that they are often thinking in one language and then directly translating into English. That is why their thinking may not appear to be linear or organized in the same fashion. In addition, consider how their culture may value a lot of context up front before getting to the point. Tell them what you expect when you say "clear" writing. For example, if you expect a linear style, spell that out as getting to the point more quickly or starting with a thesis statement. If you don't understand a piece of writing, sit down with international students and ask them what they were hoping to communicate through a certain piece of writing.
- Also on writing, provide reassurance when you feel they are getting better at communicating.
- Highlight your openness to hearing multiple perspectives, or any international background or experience you may have. This can often reduce their level of intimidation in coming to see you.
- Open up and adapt your class to the needs of your students rather than getting your students to adapt to your class. For international students, this might be giving them multiple ways to provide feedback that doesn't require speaking up in class, or allowing a student who speaks another language use that language to explain to others what the professor expects.
- Consider requiring students come to see you so that even students who don't come from this tradition will begin to demystify the experience of meeting with a professor.
- Don't assume that students to know too much or too little. If there's something going on in the world that you think is American-centric, ask if they have heard of

it. At the same time, don't assume everyone has been trained in the same form of academic writing.