

## Resource Guide

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### Pedagogical Consideration to Support International Student Learning

Below are a few pedagogical considerations that may help address some of the academic, social, and practical needs of international students. Reflect on how you may adopt these into your teaching situation as a means of supporting a welcoming and inclusive academic community.

- **Model a culture of kindness, care, and patience:** Faculty can help by setting a positive example by showing international students that they are valued and respected members of the university community. Learning students' names is a great first step toward building a warm classroom environment.
- **Consider providing formative practical "how to" exercises:** Teaching students how to manage time, study effectively, and seek additional support within the university can give students a number of paths for academic success. For more information, see the guide, [Starting the Semester: Student Engagement](#)
- **Encourage participation and provide opportunities for practice:** International students may need more time to practice course concepts. Consider providing ample opportunities to practice in class, during office hours, or in study groups. Also, consider incorporating active lecturing strategies to help encourage dialogue and collaboration between students. [for more information, see the guide, [Supporting Active Learning in Large Classes with PowerPoint](#)
- **Practice using clear and concise language.** International students may not be familiar with the local language or dialect, so it is important to use clear and concise language for all materials and when speaking in class. Avoid using jargon or technical terms that may be difficult to understand or provide clear definitions of those terms, as needed.
- **Use visuals to support course information:** Incorporating visuals in course materials and lectures can be a great way to help convey complex concepts. Consider including images, diagrams, and charts to help illustrate your points.
- **Provide additional opportunities to interact with other students:** International students may feel isolated and alone. Faculty can help by providing opportunities for international students to network with other students and faculty. They can also encourage international students to join clubs and organizations related to your course and/or academic discipline.

## Resources

Abel, C. F. (2002). Academic success and the international student: Research and recommendations. *New Directions for Higher Education*, 2002(117), 13-20.

Bartram, B. (2008). Supporting international students in higher education: Constructions, cultures and clashes. *Teaching in Higher Education*, 13(6), 657-668.

Feuerherm, E. (2016). *Fostering International Student Success in Higher Education* Shawna Shapiro, Raichle Farrelly, and Zuzana Tomaš. Alexandria, VA: TESOL Press, 2014.

For more information or to discuss how you might incorporate these ideas into your courses, contact the Reinert Center by [email](#) or submit a [consultation request form](#).