

## **Cultural Adaptation Reflection: Evolving Through Cultural Immersion in U.S.**

### **Engineering Workspaces**

My adjustment to life in the professional world in the U.S. has expanded my horizons about what a leader should be like in a contemporary engineering team. Soon, I discovered that to succeed in such an environment, you need not only technical expertise, but you must be sensitive enough to interpersonal relationships, be aware of cultural sensitivities, and be ready to engage in group work as well. One of the key changes was learning to cope with flatter hierarchies. Previously, leadership style was accompanied by a top-down course of direction, whereas in my new workplace, the leaders are so-called facilitators who inspire and encourage, rather than direct. After getting used to personal training sessions, clear status checkers of projects, and sprint retrospectives, where anyone could give constructive feedback, I can also easily manage communication in asynchronous and smooth ways (Imam & Chowdhury, 2025). The importance of stopping by team members, not just to check on their progress, but also to check on their welfare and mood, is something I have also learned to do. Through these informal events, it is possible to pick up obstructions or inconsistencies that would remain unseen. Such an experience has made me a better, more considerate, and inclusive practitioner. I also adopted feedback and do not see it as a criticism but as a chance to be better (Lapshun & Fusch, 2023). Most importantly, I realize that adaptability, fairness, and high ethical standards are traits of good leadership in the U.S. context. They have taken the position of my values in leading, cooperating, and developing.

## References

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