

### **individualist vs collectivist:**

As a student in Sweden, I come from a predominantly individualistic culture that values independence and personal achievement over group harmony and consensus. This contrasts with collectivist cultures that prioritize the group over the individual. I tend to focus on my own goals and success first, though I'm happy to work in groups when needed. Many of my international student peers come from more collectivist backgrounds and are more focused on maintaining group cohesion.

### **uncertainty-accepting vs uncertainty-rejecting:**

My culture also tends to accept uncertainty, being more comfortable with ambiguous situations and unstructured rules. This differs from uncertainty-rejecting cultures that try to minimize uncertainty through strict laws, policies, and procedures. As a student I'm fine with open-ended assignments and unclear expectations, though some of my peers from uncertainty-rejecting cultures prefer clearly defined instructions and rubrics.

### **short term vs long term time orientation:**

Additionally, my culture has a short-term time orientation, valuing quick results and immediate gratification over long-term planning and perseverance. Other cultures take a long-term view, prioritizing vision, and future-minded goals. I tend to focus on completing my assignments and passing my current classes, while some peers already have detailed 5- or 10-year plans mapped out.

As a student I exhibit more individualism, uncertainty-acceptance, and short-term thinking than peers from collectivist, uncertainty-rejecting, and long-term oriented cultures. Understanding these differences helps me appreciate diverse perspectives and collaborate more effectively in our globalized campus community.

References:

Business Communication for Success. (2012). [https://saylordotorg.github.io/text\\_business-communication-for-success/](https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_business-communication-for-success/)

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