

NOVA ORBIS TABULA AD USUM SERENISSIMI BURGUNDIAE DUCIS. AUCTORIS H. HART. TYPIS



Office of International Student Services (OISS)
201 Student Center - Phone: (757) 352-4130 - Website: www.regent.edu/oiss



REGENT UNIVERSITY®



Passport

Welcome to Regent!





Welcome to your new "home away from home!"

Settling into a new place is an exciting and challenging task when you are simply moving from one community to another. Even when the two communities are similar, building

ties includes moments of great joy and periods of frustration.

When this relocation occurs across international borders the challenge is even more intense and exciting. International students come to the U.S. from many different countries. Their cultures, experiences, worldviews, and so on, will sometimes be quite different from the cultures and worldviews they will encounter here in the United States.

We believe that you have something valuable to offer our new international students. Thus, you have been given the wonderful opportunity to have one as a roommate. Hooray! An opportunity to get to know another culture and taste their home cooked meals! :-)



Regent University's mission and vision centers on being a leading global Christian University, with its focus on *Christian Leadership to Change the World*. Thus, the University has opened its doors to provide a world-class education to students from around the world.

There were approximately 300 foreign nationals representing about 60 nations who attended Regent University through on-campus and online programs last Fall. About half of our international students are coming here to the U.S. for the very first time! Having an American roommate is a great opportunity for the international students to learn more about American culture and it is a great way for our American students to learn about other countries and cultures!



INTERESTING STATS

- For the 2009-2010 academic year NAFFSA (the Association of International Educators) estimated that international students and their dependents contributed about **\$18.8 billion** to the U.S. economy!
- The top 3 largest countries in the world (in terms of square kilometers) are: Russia (17,098,242), Canada (9,984,670), & the United States (9,826,675).
- The top 3 most heavily populated countries are: China (1,338,612,968), India (1,156,897,766), & the United States (307,212,123).
- Here are the top 3 countries with the longest life expectancy: Macau (84.36), Andorra (82.51), and Japan (82.12).



Adjustment Issues

American Students

International Students

- | | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New surroundings (VA Beach) 2. College level academics 3. New people (making new friends) 4. Transportation issues | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cultural differences 2. Language barriers & communication challenges 3. Culture shock 4. Different climate 5. Unfamiliar testing and teaching styles 6. Different foods 7. Unfamiliar products (shampoo, toothpaste, etc.) 8. Immigration rules & responsibilities 9. Employment restrictions 10. Connecting and making friends 11. Transportation issues |
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Tips for Intercultural



Remember that for many international students, English may not be their first language. Also, your roommate's gestures/non-verbal communication might be very different from yours. In addition, some cultures (like the U.S.) are more direct in their communications than other cultures. Eye contact is very important in some cultures and may be considered offensive in other cultures. Your roommate might have a hard time understanding what you have to say, especially in his/her first semester. Therefore, here are some helpful communication tips:

- Be **patient** in your interactions, especially when there is potential for miscommunication or misunderstanding.
- Be **respectful**. Your roommate's personality, lifestyle, culture, etc. may be different, so it is important to develop an appreciation of the differences and to maintain an attitude of respect.
- Be careful to **avoid presumptions** about your roommate's culture, country, or background.
- Be **open-minded** and display a genuine desire to learn. You will find that your friendship and knowledge about other cultures will grow significantly and that you will even learn more about yourself and the American culture.

Common American Traits & Cultural Values



- Personal Space
- Hard Work
- Honesty
- Privacy
- Informal
- Individualism
- Independence
- Future Oriented
- Conscience of Time/Deadlines
- Equality & Fairness

Traits:

Friendly & Outgoing, Materialistic, Orderly, Poor Geography, Ethnocentric, Generous, Wasteful

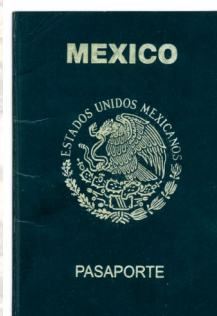
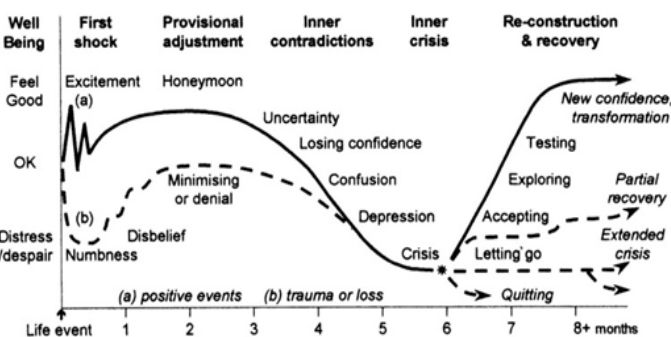
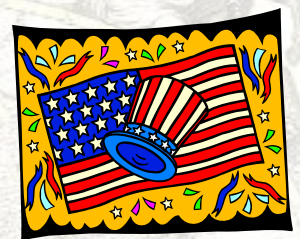


Your international roommate will likely experience **culture shock**. This is a common way to describe the roller coaster of emotions (sadness, loneliness, anxiety,

trouble concentrating, exhaustion, anger, feeling left out or misunderstood, frustration, extreme homesickness, and not wanting to be around people) he/she may have after leaving his/her home country and living in the U.S. This experience is normal and temporary. Therefore, be sensitive when you notice a change in mood with your roommate and see what you can do to help!

Advantages to Having an International Roomie!

- Chance to serve as an international ambassador & teach another about Americans, our culture, customs, and holidays!
- Fun way to learn more about other parts of the world & some geography as well!



- Opportunity to learn more about one's self and one's own culture!
- Great way to learn a new language, try new foods, and learn about the pop music and culture of other countries!

International Greetings

Match the greeting "hello" with the correct country!

1. **Makadii**

2. **Merhaba**

3. **AN-NYOUNG-HASSEYO**

4. **Hallo**

5. **Namaste**

6. **Kumusta**

7. **HOLA**

8. **Ahlan**

9. **Prevyet**

10. **Bawoni**

11. **NiHao**

A. **Phillipines**

B. **China**

C. **Korea**

D. **Nigeria (Yoruba)**

E. **Russia**

F. **Turkey**

G. **Zimbabwe**

H. **Peru**

I. **Germany**

J. **Egypt**

K. **India**

Answers on last page!

Fun Movies



COMING TO AMERICA

THE AIR UP THERE

7 YEARS IN TIBET



I DREAMED OF AFRICA

UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN

EAT PRAY LOVE

AVAILABLE RESOURCES



"Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels."
— Hebrews 13: 1-2

"If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows he is a citizen of the world, and that his heart is no island cut off from other lands, but a continent that joins to them."
— Francis Bacon



• Campus Ministries:

328 Robertson Hall, 352-4840

www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/campus_ministry/

• Office of International Student Services:

201 Student Center, 352-4130

www.regent.edu/oiss

(The OISS website contains an International Restaurant and Food Store Guide, information about the Library Flag Display, profiles of current international students and alumni, monthly newsletters, and LOTS of helpful resources for Regent's international students, including the International Student Handbook!)

• Psychological Services Center (PSC):

Suite 188, Classroom Building, 352-4488

www.regent.edu/acad/schcou/psc/

• Student Housing:

Commons: 101 Constitution Hall, 352-4652

Village: 5960 Jake Sears Circle, Suite 104, 352-4895

www.regent.edu/campus/housing/

Answers: 1G, 2F, 3C, 4I, 5K, 6A, 7H, 8J, 9E, 10D, 11B