

Considerations for International Students and Remote Education



At Westcliff University, we have many students who are joining our programs from locations abroad. This will come with a different set of challenges for them as they engage in the learning process. There are some things that we can do to help.

Time

Your students may be joining your classes from time zones around the world. A few tips for how to accommodate them in your courses include:

Group Work

- Consider projects that allow students to work collaboratively without having to set a meeting time with other students (think about asynchronous collaboration)
- Consider allowing students to choose their own group members, especially those that are closer to them in terms of time zone

Office Hours

- When setting office hours, consider those who are not able to join PST meeting times. Instead, you might consider allowing a 'by appointment' option

Participation

- While participation is an essential part of every class, do consider that many of your students may be joining in the middle of the night, their time (some even after working a full day and/or raising a family).

Access

Keep in mind that access to certain domains and platforms are not available in particular countries.

Denied Access

- In some countries, G-Suite is blocked. Please see here for a [full list](#)
- In some countries, Zoom is restricted. Please see here for a [full list](#)
- China has blocked or may still block: Trello, Slack, Google, G-Suite, New York Times, YouTube, and more - ensure your students are able to access what you are requiring. You can check if a domain is blocked [here](#)

Comprehension

Please remember that many international students may be at varying degrees of English language proficiency. Learning digitally can present additional challenges for them, especially if the sound is not clear, an educator's face is not visible, or their Internet is spotty.

Captioning

To best assist your students with listening comprehension, consider enacting the captioning and transcript option on the following platforms:

- Zoom has a [captioning](#) and [transcript](#) option
- PowerPoint has a [captioning](#) option
- Google Slides has a [captioning](#) option

Speech

Some considerations for you to consider when speaking before your class:

- Speak slowly and with clear enunciation
- Avoid idiomatic speech
- Use examples when explaining abstract concepts

Engagement

Keep in mind that speaking up in class can be intimidating for students who are not confident in the English language ability. Please do not simply assume this is a lack of engagement in the course.

Support

Encourage students to make use of support services with individuals who have been specifically trained to assist English as a second/foreign language learners. Currently, both the ARC and Writing Center are staffed with individuals to meet the unique needs of ESL/EFL students.