

INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS STUDENTS GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT

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Introduction

These guidelines address the integration of immigrant students and target the students themselves. The 10 steps proposed for the user to follow start with the identification of the multiple barriers that they may have to face when wishing to integrate and learn in a new country. In step 1, students are asked to identify the obstacles they have come across and/or imagine. Step 2 details the cultural shock that accompanies many immigration experiences and lays down the foundation of adequate open-mindedness in order to succeed. Steps 3 and 4 invite students to learn about the school as an institution and part of the community, while Steps 5 to 10 help students relate to the school environment at several levels (language and communication, personal relationships and social skills).

Identify Multiple Barriers

Identify the multiple barriers you have to school and learning.

1. Do you understand the lessons? If you do not, what is the reason? Is the problem related to the language, to the content of the lessons or to both?
2. Do you think you have received the necessary support and attention from the school and teachers?
3. Are you supported by your parents to do your homework?
4. Do you feel accepted by your classmates and peers?
5. Is your new environment very different from the one you knew in your home country? Do you feel you belong in this school environment and culture?

Training Sources

From the School Safety Net Portal



[How Much More?](#)

A documentary filmed from October 2011 to February 2012 in the streets of Athens (Greece). Immigrants from secret apartments and restricted areas present their cases.

Success Stories

From the School Safety Net Portal



[Out of Africa](#) (Portugal)

A typical story of racial prejudice and discrimination that is overcome by engaging students in producing a newspaper article on comparing cultures, their traditions, expectations, gender roles, etc.

Interviews



[Interviews on migration issues](#)

The interviews collected, from the Routes Portal (Log-in: teacher – pixel), were made with Migrants and Natives who have been in contact with immigrants.



[Interviews with Greek and Irish pupils](#)

A section of the School Inclusion Portal dedicated to interviews made, in five different European countries, with counsellors in charge of educational policies, headteachers, teachers and students dealing with the prevention of early school leaving.

Other Sources



[CTREQ \(Quebec Transfer Center for School Success\)](#)

Teachers could draw inspiration from the software to spot early school leaving “LDDS”, created by CTREQ to submit a questionnaire to their students. This software helps spot 12 to 18 year-old students at risk of early school leaving, identify them and guide them to school agents.

Accept the Cultural Shock

Mutual ignorance and lack of understanding are the causes of many misunderstandings and blunders. These may hinder successful integration at school and may be an obstacle to your effective communication, particularly if you are an older student.

1. Your culture and language matter. So do the culture and language of the host country. It is important for you to be proud of your own culture and language and to be able to show it to others at school. So, accept invitations from the class teacher to talk about your culture or share cultural artefacts from your own mother culture with others (food, objects, songs, instruments, festivals, etc.)
2. Share with others what you experience as different and as difficult in the host culture. You may write it in a diary or post it in a blog on line.
3. Be curious about the host country and language; be respectful of that culture and show interest on different ways in doing things.
4. Develop your self-esteem and self-concept by engaging in some self-discovery activities. (Do you constantly criticise the social habits of the host country? Are all your friends immigrants like you? Do you spend the whole time complaining? Do you just eat the foods from your host country? Do your views on the host country waver between being all extraordinary and completely negative? These may constitute self-defence mechanisms, but you should use them moderately if your aim is to integrate in the society you live in. It is frequent for new arrived people to feel uncomfortable in the new country and you should work on the feelings you experience).
5. To study in a new country is a big challenge. This adventure may be a positive and enriching both at the learning level and the intercultural and personal levels if you take your time to reflect on the differences of the host country: ways of thinking and seeing the world, ways of learning and teaching, etc.
6. Learn that immigration is often a questioning of everything we have seen and done in life. You need an open mind to succeed in integration.

Training Sources

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Ma classe fait sa télé - Intégration à l'école](#) (Belgium)
Videos on successful integration of immigrant students in school through several types of media activities.
- [Diversimundo](#)
Diversimundo is an educational video game that addresses diversity (social, cultural, ethnic, religious, sexual, etc.).
- [I respect. Active citizenship, cultural diversity and positive tolerance](#)
An eLearning Awards 2004 winner web portal on active citizenship, cultural diversity and positive tolerance.

Online Manuals

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Partire è un po' morire?](#) ("To leave is a bit like to die", Italian proverb).
This resource focuses on the contradictory feelings associated with the experience of migrating to another country from the point of view of children and adolescents.
- [Home far away from home](#)
A second life in the new countries: to find a job, to learn a language, to meet new people...

Other Sources

- [Lived and Felt Stories](#)
This training product aims to publicize life stories and contexts of immigrant children in Portugal. They are written in the first person and narrate difficulties encountered and differences felt by immigrant children and young people and how they were able to successfully overcome them.

It is also Your School

When you enrol in a school you become part of it and you should make all efforts to integrate well in it.

1. Attend school every day and participate in every planned class.
2. Learn about the required rules and comply with them.
3. Talk with your parents at home about what you learn at school. This is valuable for you and for your parents because you share information about school culture. It is also an opportunity to identify stressful moments and learning difficulties that can be solved together.
4. Do the tasks assigned by the teacher (at school or at home)
5. Know and respect the school rules and regulations: arriving on time every day, having your material, switching off you mobile phone ...
6. Accept the consequences if you do not respect the rules.

Training Sources

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Ma classe fait sa télé - Intégration à l'école](#) (Belgium)
Videos on successful integration of immigrant students in school through several types of media activities.

Success Stories

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Intercultural Module: Kinga's story](#)
A success story in Italy.
- [Success of a Newly-arrived Student](#)
A success story in Belgium.

Your School is Part of the Community

1. In school you learn about what matters in a particular culture and you also learn how you are expected to behave and live your life. At school you are developing individual and group skills and you develop your self-identity as part of a larger community that may be complex and multicultural.
2. If you feel displaced at school, there are other programs you may enrol in and which are part of non-formal education. There are community centres that may help you re-integrate in school through several activities; there are non-profit organisations and state-sponsored organisations that support your individual projects. There are also cultural associations where you may learn about other communication skills that are not merely academic.

Training Sources From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Family Friendly](#)
Through Family Friendly the Province of Prato intends to promote and develop the best practices for the participation of foreign parents, by providing useful tools for a factual integration in the area they live in and, at the same time, to foster academic, training and working success of their children.

Success Stories From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Sport and School](#) (Greece)
This story told by an immigrant student highlights his need to articulate school with non-formal activities and how sports helped him to integrate more successfully.

Websites

- jacroche.be
Platform to share information on early school leaving in French-speaking Belgium (Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles) that collects studies, testimonies, addresses, etc.

Learn the Language

1. You probably use two or more languages daily and there is no harm in that. It is, in fact, a skill for the 21st century. Because you speak two languages, you are entitled to use any of them when you want. However, at school, teachers expect you to use the official language(s) of the country and that is what you should do.
2. If at some stages of language development you experience difficulties, talk to your teacher. There is the possibility of extra tutorial time for you.
3. Remind all those around you that you are learning in a second language and that at times it may be harder for you than for others. Take your time to learn.
4. If you are newly-arrived, you may join transition classes that will teach you how to learn in a second language and this is a good opportunity.
5. Accept to be paired with a colleague who is native to the language, because this way you will improve your language skills.
6. Take every advantage to learn the language of the host country through watching television, reading, doing shopping lists and going shopping, going to the library, etc.
7. Remember that a language is not just words; it includes gestures, looks and body language that you should get acquainted with. So, learn about all aspects connected with language every day while you go out working and shopping and especially in peer relations.

Training Sources

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Strategies for Success: Engaging Immigrant Students in Secondary Schools](#) (USA)
A 10 principles program for the integration of immigrant students that can be simplified for secondary school students and discussed with them.
- [Dispositif D'accueil et de Scolarisation des Élèves Primo-Arrivants \(DASPA\)](#)
Service to welcome and educate newly arrived students, ministry of compulsory education – Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (Belgium).

Success Stories

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Language Barriers](#) (Greece)
This is the story of a young pupil with high cognitive skills in certain areas that experienced difficulties because of linguistic expression. This was solved through the personal intervention of the board of parents.
- [Courses of Italian as L2 - from Student to Tutor](#)
A success story in Italy.

Communicate With Others

1. Learn how to listen to verbal and non-verbal communication.
2. Understand about communication styles: passive, assertive and aggressive.
3. Be part of the solution when problems arise and be willing to mediate conflicts if need arises.
4. Manage differences (gender, culture and handicaps).
5. Meet other people, make new friends. To immigrate requires a big effort to meet others and cross the way to them. If you are afraid of calling your beliefs into question, if you refrain from introspection and confrontation, the experience of being an immigrant may become quite hard on you.

Training Sources

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Tales of The World 2. The People Build Peace](#) (Spain)
These tales and their guided discussions can be used by students to gather a deeper cultural self-knowledge and engage with the culture of others.
- [Programme for Peer Training and Against Discriminations and Prejudices](#) (Belgium)
The participants are invited to share their experiences and opinions, to actively listen, to learn in an emotional as well as intellectual way, to develop an action plan that encourages one to take one's own responsibilities in order to face prejudices and discrimination in society.
- [Diversimundo](#)
Diversimundo is an educational video game that addresses diversity (social, cultural, ethnic, religious, sexual, etc.).

Publications

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Education to Diversity for Young People... by Young People!](#)
Published by IRFAM - Institut de Recherche, Formation et Actions sur les Migrations (Belgium).

Websites

- [Université de Paix](#)
Publications and training modules proposed by "Université de Paix" (Belgium).

Talk to the Teacher

1. If language is a problem for communication, you should let your teacher know. Don't wait for mid-term assessments.
2. If you need help with homework, tell your teacher. He/she may find the appropriate homework tuition group for you.
3. Follow your teacher's advice on how to learn; simultaneously let your teacher understand how you prefer to learn and what you consider more effective.
4. If you cannot afford the materials/equipment for the class subjects, talk to the teacher. She/he is part of a wider network that may help you out.
5. Personal problems such as health issues and housing problems can also be communicated to your teacher, because she/he will know who to pass the information on.
3. It is also important to talk to your class teacher and parents when you feel you do not belong or that you are not smart enough to succeed. This means that you are not correctly integrated and this can be solved.
4. If your parents have given you the task to supervise your younger siblings in school, make sure the class teacher and headteacher know this, for they can be helpful and flexible to accommodate your and your siblings' needs.
5. Do not be discouraged; stay motivated in case of failure.
6. Call the educational team and aid servicers in case of difficulties (in several countries you may have a series of services you can use that support your learning).

Websites

- [Fédération Francophone des Ecoles de Devoirs](#)
Homework support services in Belgium.
- [CPMS: Psycho-Medico-Social Services](#) (Belgium)
- [AMO, Aide en Milieu Ouvert](#)
Help in Open Environment (youth help services) in Belgium.
- [Donner la parole aux jeunes](#) (Let Young People Speak)
Report by the general delegate for children's rights in French-speaking Belgium, November 2011 (Belgium).

Success Stories

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Success of a newly-arrived student](#) (Belgium)
Story about self-determination of a student to succeed, how the student raised his level of work when learning difficulties appeared, how he received support from his family and the school set up practical help schemes.
- [Mentoring: help for parents](#)
Success story in Belgium.

Integrate into the Class Group and/or a Peer GROUP

1. Having had previous unsatisfactory experiences at school or experiencing these for the first time does not mean that they will not be changed.
2. Belonging to a group: needs and responsibilities. Belonging to a group may be important for you because of affective needs, power issues, for entertainment or through other forms of association (moral, playful, etc.). Groups give you a sense of pleasure, excitement and power. They are also very important for you in terms of self-esteem, selfhood and change. However, belonging to a group may also cause stress. You may feel it difficult to cope with your group
3. Cooperation and group work. From the adolescence, you integrate several networks (in sports, youth associations, neighbourhood 'gangs' or schools) and you play a definite role in each of them. In that capacity you are influenced by others and can influence others.
4. Participate in school life and activities organised by the school (class representative, festivities...)
5. Participate in activities and initiatives organised by the community (sport club, community centres...)

Training Sources

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Programme for peer training and against discriminations and prejudices](#)
Written by EPTO (European Peer Training Organisation) (Belgium).

Publications

From the School Safety Net Portal

- ["Melting classes" Journey through the interculturality school](#)
Stepping back, being aware of one's identity, of one's frame of references (norms, values related to a culture), getting rid of one's prejudices and stereotypes.

Websites

- [Youth Movements](#) (Belgium)

Success Stories

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [From affection and volunteer work to inclusion](#)
A success Story in Portugal.

Manage Your Emotions and Feelings

1. Learn how to express feelings and respect yourself. You do not need to be aggressive
2. You may say and think what you like provided you do not hurt others. Your feelings and emotions may be positive or negative.
3. It is important to be able to say no, as well as to ask for and respond to favours.
4. Learn how to initiate, maintain and end conversations.
5. Learn to be resilient. Expose yourself to adverse contexts and adapt positively.

Training Sources

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Programme for peer training and against discriminations and prejudices](#) (Belgium)
The participants are invited to share their experiences and opinions, to listen actively, to learn in an emotional as well as intellectual way, to develop an action plan that encourages one to take one's own responsibilities in order to face prejudices and discrimination in society.
- [I respect. Active citizenship, cultural diversity and positive tolerance](#) (UK)
An eLearning Awards 2004 winner web portal on active citizenship, cultural diversity and positive tolerance.

Success Stories

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Give them the weapons to fight!](#) (Greece)
The story of a bullied boy who succeeded to build resilience and self confidence thanks to a combined intervention from other kids, the school and some supportive and assertive parents.

Websites

- [Université de Paix](#)
Publications and training modules proposed by "Université de Paix" (Belgium).

Refuse Racism, Prejudice and Discrimination

1. If there is racism in society, it may happen that you feel the victim of racism in school. You may not interpret peer behaviour as racist, but you may feel lonely and isolated from the rest. It is important that you do not isolate yourself and that you help others understand your difference based on personality, identity, likes and dislikes and not on the skin colour. Also it is important that you report any racist incident to your class teacher and headteacher.
2. Avoid racist behaviours. You are not immune to racism or prejudices. Do not do to others what you do not want others to do to you, whether they are from the host country or other immigrants.

Training Sources From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Feeling Lonely](#) (Greece)
A video which presents in simple images, how immigrants are not a danger and they have their own problems.
- [Programme for peer training and against discriminations and prejudices](#) (Belgium)
The participants are invited to share their experiences and opinions, to actively listen, to learn in an emotional as well as intellectual way, to develop an action plan that encourages one to take one's own responsibilities in order to face prejudices and discrimination in society.

Websites

- [Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism](#) (Belgium)