



If differences in culture are not understood and respected by WSTP trainers, these differences can lead to misunderstandings, disappointments, confusion, embarrassment, anger or insult.

Potential cultural considerations

- **Physical contact:** It may be culturally inappropriate for a female trainer or participant to assess a male wheelchair user, or for a male trainer or participant to assess a female wheelchair user.
- **Clothing:** You must ensure that your dress is culturally appropriate.
- **Communication:** In some cultures participants may not answer questions unless they are asked directly.
- **Eye contact:** It may be impolite to look at someone directly when you are speaking to them.
- **Feedback:** Be aware of what is acceptable for participants when giving and receiving constructive criticism/feedback in their society.
- **Gender:** In some cultures it will not be appropriate for men and women to be paired together for activities, or to eat together; this may affect the organization of group work and refreshment breaks.
- **Religious beliefs:** Longer break times, or different start/finish times, may be needed to fit in with local religious practices such as festivals, fasting or prayer.

Activity 2: Cultural competence

Think about and write down examples of when you experienced a culture different from your own.

What was it like?