

Instructions for completing the Cultural Context survey:

This survey is a simplified, short survey to indicate context orientation of individuals in a specific academic setting such as a classroom or lab. So, please respond to each of the cultural context elements in an academic setting, and not as if you are at home or off campus.

You will need to fill out this survey twice; the first time for how **You** approach things in the academic setting:

You
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10


Then using the same cultural context spectrum respond with how you perceive the overall **educational context of your institution/organization** (not necessarily in the classroom/lab only):

Your Institution/Organization
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Please respond to each cultural context binary quickly using the Likert scale to determine where on the spectrum you and/or the organization reside. If you feel the response is more on the “L Context” side of this continuum, circle your response on the Likert scale between “0” to “4” with 0 being the strongest. If you feel more affinity with the “R Context” side, circle your response between “6 to 10,” with 10 being the strongest affinity. If you feel that the response should include both R and L Contexts, or you are taking a lot of time to make a decision, then circle the number “5” on the scale. Again, please avoid too much contemplation over each set of responses and try to answer the survey as quickly as possible.

We will discuss the survey when everyone is done, and the results will be used to organize various group activities and to help each of you to see how you may react to academic cultural contexts.

Where do you and your university fall on the spectrum between the choices?

L-Context		R-Context
<p>Low use of nonverbal signals Less attuned to body language to communicate.</p>	<p>You 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>Your Institution/Organization 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>High use of nonverbal signals such as and body language through voice, expression and gestures.</p>
<p>Communication is direct Get to the main point quickly, spell things out exactly. May appear to be blunt, or even rude.</p>	<p>You 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>Your Institution/Organization 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Communication is indirect Avoid getting to the main point quickly. People get main ideas from context.</p>
<p>Sparse Interpersonal feedback Avoid interfering with others' lives. Mood shifts attributed to personal problems often to be ignored.</p>	<p>You 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>Your Institution/Organization 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Frequent interpersonal feedback. Constant checking on emotional status is important for group morale. Attuned to slight mood changes among friends and colleagues.</p>
<p>Disagreement is depersonalized. Tend to withdraw from conflict and get on with task. Can defuse confrontation by quiet separation.</p>	<p>You 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>Your Institution/Organization 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Disagreement is personalized. Sensitive to conflict and criticism. Defuse confrontation and unpleasantness. Resolve conflicts before work can progress.</p>
<p>Personal commitment to people is low. Relationships start and end quickly.</p>	<p>You 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>Your Institution/Organization 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Personal commitment to people is high. Relationships depend on trust and build slowly.</p>
<p>Task orientation. Things get done when everyone follows policies and procedures and pays attention to goals. People are not as important as completing the job.</p>	<p>You 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>Your Institution/Organization 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Process orientation. Getting things done depends on relationships and attention to group process. Courtesy and kindness are more important than completing a job.</p>
<p>Time is a commodity to be spent, saved, carved out, lost and made up. Emphasis on promptness, speed, schedules, and efficiency. Time is money. Change happens fast.</p>	<p>You 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>Your Institution/Organization 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Time is process and part of nature; it belongs to everyone. Emphasis on people and completion of transactions. Change happens slowly because things are rooted in the past. Deadlines are goals to be achieved if possible.</p>

<p>Culture can be changed, put on, or taken off. Change means discarding old ways for new. Expect others to be willing to reshape culture.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">You 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your Institution/Organization 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Culture is ingrained and integral to everything. Change means integrating new and old ways. Seldom expect others to reshape their culture.</p>
<p>Privacy is important with concern about disturbing others</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">You 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your Institution/Organization 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Privacy is less important in involvement with family, friends, close business associates</p>
<p>Analytical, linear-logical, and disciplinary thinking valued. Disciplinary boundaries make sense; classification systems in your field are valuable; you see attributes of objects first.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">You 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your Institution/Organization 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Holistic, symbolic and systems thinking valued. Disciplinary boundaries are fuzzy and contrived; classification systems have too many exceptions; you see connections between objects first.</p>
<p>Examination of ideas is valued</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">You 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your Institution/Organization 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Application of knowledge is valued</p>
<p>Information can be separated from context.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">You 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your Institution/Organization 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Information without context is meaningless.</p>
<p>Individuated work is valued.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">You 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your Institution/Organization 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Collaborative work is valued.</p>
<p>I'm comfortable walking into a crowded room where I don't know anyone. I also am comfortable speaking up in class.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">You 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your Institution/Organization 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>I'm uncomfortable walking into a crowded room where I don't know anyone. I avoid speaking up in classes.</p>
<p>Written communication is preferred to oral communication. Information is better absorbed through written communication.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">You 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your Institution/Organization 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Oral communication is preferred to written communication. Information is better absorbed through oral communication.</p>

**** Source:** Adapted from the work of Hall (1959-1993), Hall and Hall (1990), Ibarra (2001), and Ibis Consulting Group product.