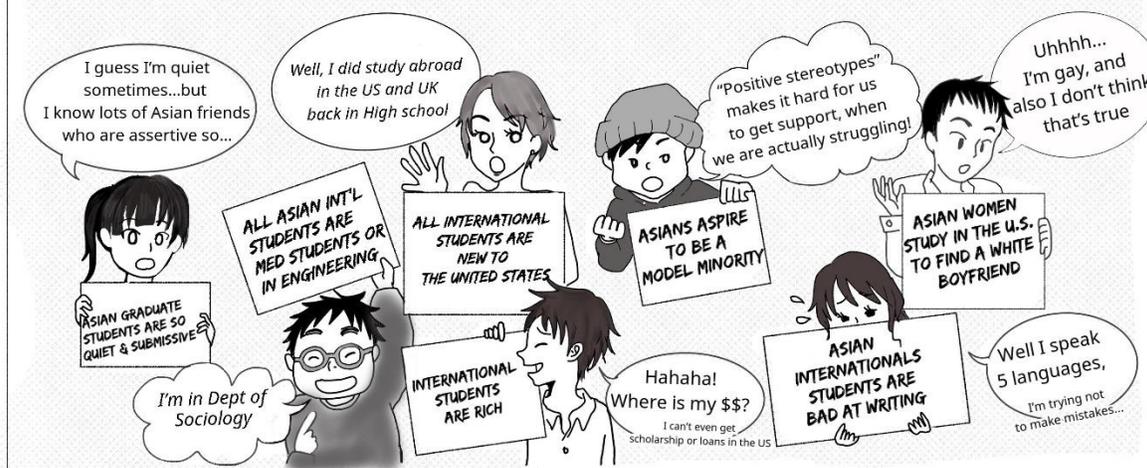


# INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT DIVERSITY

Case 1: Asian Grad students

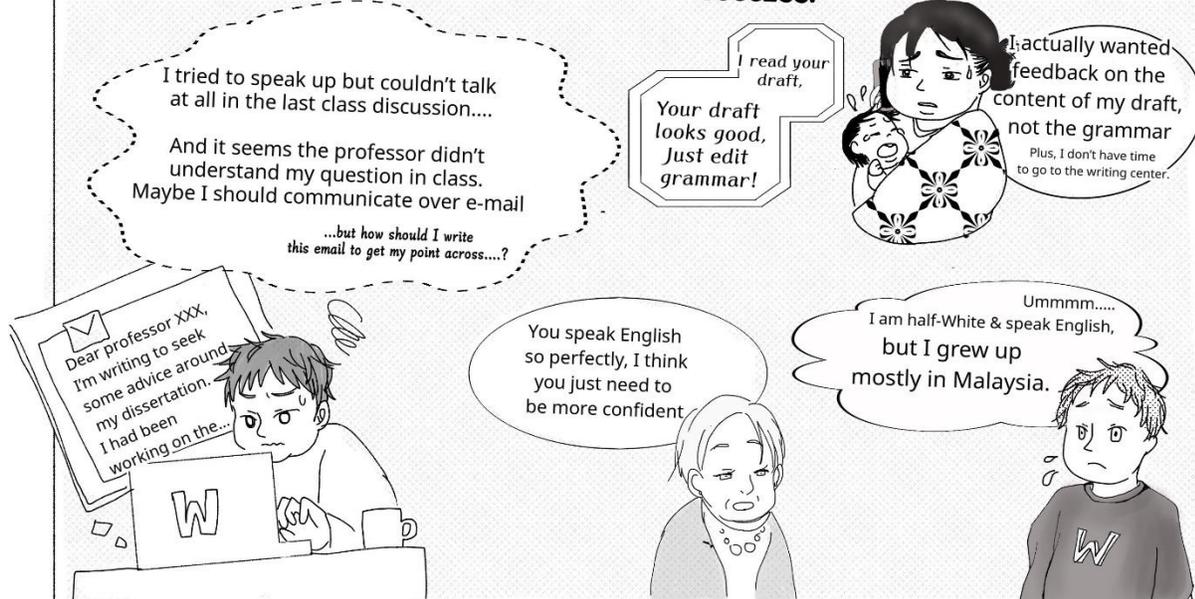
## TIP 1: INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE VERY DIVERSE.



## TIP 2: ACADEMIC CULTURE IN HIGHER EDUCATION IS NOT THE SAME AROUND THE WORLD.



## TIP 3: ENGLISH PROFICIENCY IS NOT A MEASURE OF SUCCESS.



Created by Saya & Miho

## 5 Tips for Successfully Supporting International Graduate Students: A Guide to Faculty and Staff Members

### Tip 1 – International graduate students are a diverse population

- International graduate students have a range of identities based on:
  - Country of origin, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, study abroad experiences, exposure to English, educational background, socioeconomic status, etc.
- Avoid generalizations and stereotypes
  - All societies have people whose behaviors, beliefs, and values do not reflect those in the dominant culture.

### Tip 2 – Higher education culture is not the same around the world

- Mentoring has no national boundaries: Mentors adjust their mentoring skills to meet different students' needs.
- Power dynamics: International graduate students might be expressing respect, when they do not speak up in class. It can help to invite additional comments, and pause to create space for others to contribute to the discussion.
- It's okay to take initiative and reach out to your international students, if you haven't heard from them. Some will defer to you, and wait for your request to schedule a meeting. It can help to set a schedule of regular check-in meetings.

### Tip 3 – Language proficiency is not the measure of success

- Grammar mistakes do not reflect an international graduate student's intelligence or critical thinking skills. When providing feedback on writing, it can help to make suggestions or offer rationale for certain grammatical conventions - the writing center can help with this if your time is limited.
- Be mindful that you may be unintentionally avoiding international students, because you find it difficult to communicate with them.
- Find the best way for one-on-one discussions to work (e.g. email, prepare an outline to structure your conversation, have a white board on hand, etc.)
- Focus more on the merit of the student's work, rather than their citizenship status.

### Tip 4 – Appreciation, respect, and clarity go a long way in supporting academic success.

- A recent study in the field of higher education research shows that setting clear expectations and timelines helps international students to be successful in graduate school.
- Set expectations in the classroom: For example, "I expect you to reach out, to speak up, to read the material and prepare questions for office hours and the classroom discussion."
- Learn about campus resources, so you can refer your students for additional support. Core Programs in the Graduate School can help with resource links and referrals.
- Be mindful to be inclusive of international students' perspectives in and outside of the classroom.

### Tip 5 – Guidance on professional development opportunities and career exploration is essential.

- A student's post-graduation plan (whether or not to work in the U.S.) should guide career exploration plans.
- It is often more urgent for international students to find a job soon after graduation given their visa constraints and limitations of work permit timelines (OPT).
- Encourage international graduate students to build their networks early, and do informational interviews. It takes time to make connections and find the right fit.