

Re-entry

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Language Center



Transition

Passage from one state or place to another

Adapting to change

Culture shock

Re-entry shock or Reverse culture shock

Home

Thomas Wolfe - *You Can't Go Home Again*

Craig Storti - *The Art of Coming Home*

3 key elements of home:

- 1) Familiar places

Home

Much of the sting of re-entry is not that things are different – we learn to handle the different quite well when we go overseas – but that we are expecting them to be the same

Craig Storti

Home

Craig Storti – *The Art of Coming Home*

Key elements of home:

- 1) Familiar places
- 1) Familiar people

Home

*Home may include many familiar faces, but it contains
very few familiar people.*

Craig Storti

Home

Craig Storti – *The Art of Coming Home*

Key elements of home:

- 1) Familiar places
- 1) Familiar people
- 1) Routines and predictable interactions



Home

To re-enter is to be temporarily homeless.

Craig Storti

Stages of Re-entry

- 1) Leave-taking and departure
- 2) Honeymoon
- 3) Reverse culture shock
- 4) Readjustment

Common experiences

- People don't seem to be interested in your experiences
- You miss your “celebrity” status
- You miss people and the ex-pat community
- No use your new language skills
- Life is not as exciting as it was on a daily basis

How to get through re-entry

Realize that it's normal, it's not you

Don't hide your feelings, but don't wear them on your sleeve

Try to reserve judgement

Allow yourself plenty of time to adjust

Don't be too eager to tell everything at once

Remember to ask about others' experiences

How to get through re-entry


Prioritize the things you have to do

View re-entry in the context of the whole experience

Seek out other returnees


Get involved with foreigners/international students

(To be continued...)



Experiential education is by nature essentially unprocessed until the post experience period, and the greatest gains in understanding what happened often occur after the event in the sense is passed...

Bruce La Brack



Most of the competences that people gain in study abroad, other than language, tend to be what I refer to as “cover competences” that they have acquired but don’t yet understand, and they won’t understand until they have to put them into practice in their own culture, or they go to another culture and have to use those culture learning strategies all over again.

Bruce La Brack

Rewards of the Expatriate Experience

You learned about another culture and another part of the world

You may now speak another language which may be useful in your career or studies

You made some wonderful friends

You are less ethnocentric, you see both yourself and the world more clearly

You are more independent, self-reliant and self-confident

Rewards of the Expatriate Experience

You can think more creatively or more originally

You are more flexible and may be slower to pass judgment

You know your own culture better than those you never left

Craig Storti



It's up to you!

Language Center

Intercultural Communication Studies

Courses **full**

Cultural Conversations 1-3 credits

Info and registration –Pinni B 5071

Deadline: September 8th

or the end of the first week of a period

Language Center

UTA Debate Society

Tuesdays, 17-19 Pinni B 5078 ?

Tutoring international students