

# Glossary



## **Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS)**

Conversational fluency in English or the ability to interact in social settings.

## **Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP)**

Academic fluency in English or the ability to conduct academic activities like explaining concepts, giving opinions, participating in debates, summarizing text or writing research papers.

## **Collectivist**

“The tendency to focus on the goals, needs and views of the in-group rather than individualists’ own goals, needs and views. (Compare with individualist.)”

## **Cultural informant**

“A trusted friend or colleague [who] ... has experienced both the target culture and one’s own ... [and can] explain and define the motives behind the act that is the source of the cultural conflict.”

## **Culture-general**

“Those general characteristics that can be found in any culture such as communication style and values. It is also a method of studying intercultural communication in which one deals with the aspects of culture and communication that apply to all cultures. The opposite of culture-specific.”

## **Culture shock**

“A relatively short-term feeling of disorientation and discomfort due to a lack of familiar cues in the environment.”

“Symptoms of culture shock are both physical and psychological. Symptoms can include headaches, stomach aches, dizziness, rashes, nausea, irritability, insomnia or excessive sleepiness, depression, loneliness, withdrawal, paranoia, anger, aggression, hatred, fear, crying and complaining.”

**Culture-specific**

“The distinctive qualities of a particular culture. It can also be a method of studying intercultural communication in which specific cultural characteristics of a group are studied, specifically those dealing with all aspects of communication of a particular culture that are distinct to that culture.”

**Custodian**

The temporary legal caregiver of a minor child assigned by the child’s parents/legal guardians.

**Exchange student**

A student who is participating in a reciprocal exchange program, as defined by the *Funding Manual for School Authorities*.

**Guardian**

The permanent legal caregiver of a child; usually the minor child’s natural parents or individuals who have obtained legal guardianship status through a guardianship order, as per section 23 of Alberta’s *Family Law Act*.

**High context communication**

“A style of communication in which much of the information is contained in the contexts and nonverbal cues rather than expressed explicitly in words. (Compare with low context communication.)” Also referred to as indirect communication.

**Individualist**

“The tendency to emphasize individual identities, beliefs, needs, goods and views, rather than those of the group. (Compare with collectivist.)”

**Internationalization**

“... the process of integrating an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, functions or delivery of ... education at the institutional and national levels.”

**International education administrator**

A school authority staff member who coordinates and promotes internationalization within the school authority.

**International student**

A student from another country who does not have a right of access to education under section 8 of Alberta’s *School Act* and does not meet the criteria for a funded student, as defined in the *Funding Manual for School Authorities*.

**Low context communication**

“A style of communication in which much of the information is conveyed in words rather than in nonverbal cues and contexts. (Compare with high context communication.)” Also referred to as direct communication.

**Nonverbal communication**

A communication style that uses body language to convey messages. Nonverbal communication includes the use of personal space, eye contact, facial expressions, sense of time and silence.

**Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**

“A forum where the governments of 30 market democracies work together to address the economic, social and governance challenges of globalization, as well as to exploit its opportunities.”

**Power distance**

“The extent to which the less powerful person in a society accepts inequality in power and considers it normal.”

**Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)**

“A three-year survey of 15-year-olds in the 30 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member countries and 35 partner countries. It assesses the extent to which students near the end of compulsory education have acquired the knowledge and skills essential in everyday life.”

**Reciprocal Exchange Program**

“A recognized program under which a student who is an Alberta resident student is partnered or paired with a student who is a resident of another province or country. The same school authority that sends the partnered Alberta resident student on the exchange must also receive the partnered student from another province or country either in the same school year or in the subsequent school year. The exchange must be approved by the International Education Services Branch of Alberta Education.”

For additional definitions, refer to the *Funding Manual for School Authorities*.

## List of Acronyms

ACGC – Alberta Council for Global Cooperation  
AISPP – Alberta International School Partnership Program  
ALIS – Alberta Learning Information Service  
AP – Advanced Placement  
ASPnet – Associated Schools Project Network  
ATA – The Alberta Teachers’ Association  
BICS – Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills  
BMI – Business Marketing International  
CAPSI – Canadian Association of Public Schools International  
CBIE – Canadian Bureau of International Education  
CCIC – Canadian Council for International Cooperation  
CECN – Canadian Education Centre Network  
CEE – Chinese Education Expo  
CEU – Credit Enrollment Unit  
CIC – Citizenship and Immigration Canada  
CIDA – Canadian International Development Agency  
CALP – Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency  
CMEC – Council of Ministers of Education Canada  
CTF – Canadian Teachers’ Federation  
DFAIT – Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
ELL – English Language Learners  
ELP – English Language Proficiency  
ESL – English as a Second Language  
FPCERIA – Federal–Provincial Consultative Committee on Education-related International Activities  
FSL – French as a Second Language  
HANBAN – Office of the Chinese Language Council International  
IB – International Baccalaureate  
IISLE – Institute for Innovation in Second Language Learning  
ICEF – International Consultants for Education and Fairs  
LECT – League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers  
OCED – Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development  
OLEP – Official Languages Education Program  
PISA – Programme for International Student Assessment  
SEVEC – Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada  
TESOL – Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages  
WEBA – World Business Educate Association

## Glossary Endnotes

1. J. Martin and T. Nakayama, *Intercultural Communication in Contexts*, 2nd ed. (Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing, 2000).
2. Michel Englebert, "Character or Culture: Implications for the Culturally Diverse Classroom," *Asian EFL Journal* 6, 1 (2004), [http://www.asian-elf-journal.com/04\\_me.php](http://www.asian-elf-journal.com/04_me.php) (Accessed August 5, 2010).
3. University of the Pacific, What's Up with Culture? – Glossary, <http://www2.pacific.edu/sis/culture/> (Accessed August 5, 2010).
4. J. Martin and T. Nakayama, "Culture Shock" in *Intercultural Communication in Contexts*, 2nd ed. (Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing, 2000), p. 339.
5. University of the Pacific, What's Up with Culture? – Glossary, <http://www2.pacific.edu/sis/culture/> (Accessed August 5, 2010).
6. Ibid.
7. J. Martin and T. Nakayama, "High Context Communication" in *Intercultural Communication in Contexts*, 2nd ed. (Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing, 2000), p. 341.
8. Ibid., "Individualist" in *Intercultural Communication in Contexts*, 2nd ed. (Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing, 2000), p. 341.
9. Jane Knight, *Higher Education in Turmoil: The Changing World of Internationalization* (Rotterdam, NL: Sense Publishers, 2008), p. 21.
10. J. Martin and T. Nakayama, "Low Context Communication" in *Intercultural Communication in Contexts*, 2nd ed. (Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing, 2000), p. 342.
11. Ibid., "Nonverbal Codes", p. 384.
12. OECD. *The OECD: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development*, p. 7.
13. G. Hofstede in Larry A. Samovar and Richard E. Porter, *Communication Between Cultures*, 5th ed. (Belmont, CA: Thomson Learning Inc., 2004), p. 64.

14. “OECD. Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).”  
[http://www.oecd.org/topic/0,3373,en\\_2649\\_35845621\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_37455,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/topic/0,3373,en_2649_35845621_1_1_1_1_37455,00.html)  
(Accessed August 5, 2010).
15. Alberta Education, *Funding Manual for School Authorities* (Edmonton, AB: Alberta Education, 2009), p. 157.