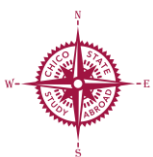




## **SURVIVING & THRIVING IN OTHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS**

As you embark to your new home and welcome new cultural traditions and norms, you will also notice a difference in the education system. It's important to understand how courses will be structured and evaluated, as well as the expectations that your new professors will have. The sooner you understand how it all works, the better you can adjust to the differences—reach out to your peer advisors & program specific alumni. They are important resources to have.



### *Different from U.S. Classes*

- Big lectures & small seminars are often the class format.
- Different grading scale.
- There might be less class time.
- Most exams are written.
- Class grade is often based on a single assessment.
- The professors and overall feel of the University is usually more formal.
- Students often take school more seriously abroad than in the U.S.
- Students often dress nicer for class than they do here in California.
- Students don't bring laptops to class often.
- Notes written on the board are often not "asides", but crucial even if not on syllabus.

### *Less Support from Your Professors*

- Office hours are usually by appointment only.
- Visit the Department office ASAP.

### *Syllabus*

- In many countries, the professors don't follow the syllabus as closely as in the U.S.
- In most cases, there is very little specificity on the syllabus. E.g. It is unlikely you will be told which chapters of your textbooks to read each week.

### *Exams*

- Ask what format the exam/paper should be submitted in.
- Professors probably won't review the exam in class.
- Often there is no class the week before an exam.
- The essay questions are sometimes provided in the syllabus.
- Most exams are essay format.
- Any citation method is usually ok—however, double check by asking your professors.
- Re-writes or retakes are usually available (*make sure you ask about this at the BEGINNING of school*).
- Sometimes you are assigned a serial number for your exams.
- Big concerns about cheating.

