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## Global Citizens and Future Leaders



I recently completed my Leadership in Action project in the Faroe Islands, this international experience taught me the value of cultural humility and open communication in global leadership.

### Cultural Humility

Cultural humility involves recognising and challenging your own cultural biases while engaging with other cultures in a respectful and open manner. It allows us to effectively communicate and improve team-work. During my project I constantly navigated small cultural differences that I did not always pick up on straight away. However, I learned that as long as I approached every situation with an eagerness to learn and self-awareness, I could move past our differences to do some amazing work together.

I conducted an interview with a politician in Tórshavn, and it was a profoundly enlightening experience that underscored the significance of empathy and openness in engaging with another culture. Throughout our conversation, I realized how crucial it was to approach the interaction with sensitivity and understanding. For instance, when she requested additional time to contemplate the questions or asked if she could reframe a question slightly, I learned the value of patience and the importance of being empathetic. This experience taught me that fostering an atmosphere of empathy and openness is essential in cross-cultural communications, enabling a deeper connection and more meaningful exchange of ideas.

### Open Communication

Language barriers can be difficult to navigate, this was something I came across often in the Faroe Islands. I found that the best way to build connections while communication was difficult was to be

patient and open. As a native English speaker, it is very easy to rely on others knowledge of English rather than making an effort to learn their language. However, I learned that making an effort to speak another language is invaluable as it shows your commitment and openness to learning about their culture. I often struggled with the seemingly unsurmountable task of learning a new language but the few phrases/words I learnt were important in showing my effort. This effort not only facilitates better communication but also shows respect and fosters stronger, more meaningful relationships.

Language barriers are not the only differences in communication; body language and idioms also play a significant role and often vary widely between cultures. Effective cross-cultural communication depends on being aware of these potential differences and having a willingness to learn and adapt. To navigate these nuances, I frequently relied on active listening to fully understand those around me. This approach helped me interpret non-verbal cues more accurately, ensuring clearer interactions.

### **Global Leadership**

In the future I intend to lead with cultural humility and open communication in order to become an effective global leader. My experience taught me that I must continuously recognise and challenge my cultural biases while striving to understand diverse perspectives. This will allow me to enhance collaboration and foster an environment of mutual understanding as a leader. I intend to lead by utilising the skills I learned during my Leadership in Action project in the Faroe Islands, while continuously developing these skills.