Re-entry

Nancy Aalto
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
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 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

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Cultural Conversations 1-3 credits
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Deadline: September 8th
or the end of the first week of a period
Language Center

UTA Debate Society
   Tuesdays, 17-19 Pinni B 5078 ?

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Tutoring international students