

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The University recognizes that some members of the Lehigh community may experience harassment and sexual misconduct differently due to their identities, which may lead to additional challenges in reporting incidents. We are committed to fostering an inclusive environment and embracing academic, cultural, economic, and physical differences. We recognize that in some situations, these differences can affect access to resources and willingness to report incidents of harassment and sexual misconduct.

- International students are at an increased risk for sexual assault and may be targeted for sexual violence because of a perceived vulnerability due to inexperience with U.S. culture (including language, unfamiliarity with laws, resources, etc.) and prejudice and discrimination.
- Misunderstandings based on differences in social norms and sexual cues can make international students vulnerable to victimization, such as not understanding “leave me alone” or “I’m not interested” is a signal of discouragement, not an encouraging response.
- Gender roles and expectations based on societal and cultural norms outside the U.S. culture may also impact one’s recognition of certain behaviors as harassment or sexual misconduct, and can negatively impact people’s willingness to access resources or report incidents.
- Other unique factors, such as distance from support networks of family and friends, time zone differences between family/friends and individuals in the U.S., and language barriers can also deter individuals from reporting incidents.
- If you have questions about cultural norms around dating, healthy relationships, gender violence, etc., please contact the Office of Gender Violence Education & Support, the Office of International Students and Scholars, or one of the Gender Violence Support Advocates located in the Office of International Affairs – Colette LaMarche or Mary Newbegin.

Resources and support are available to all students, faculty, and staff. We recognize that reporting incidents and utilizing resources may be particularly challenging for some identities, and the Equal Opportunity Compliance Coordinator (EOCC) and Office of Gender Violence Education & Support (GVES) strive to assist individuals to address those challenges. The University works with each individual to identify resources and support that are specific to each person’s needs. More information can be found at [eocc.lehigh.edu](http://eocc.lehigh.edu) or at [lehigh.edu/go/gves](http://lehigh.edu/go/gves) or you can contact GVES or the EOCC directly to learn more.



LEHIGH  
UNIVERSITY