

Are you a **Global Citizen?**

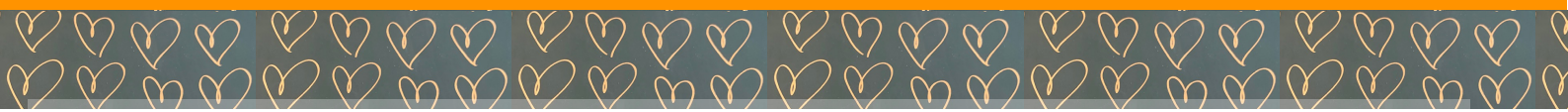
Check to see how you can further enhance your global awareness

What is your definition of a Global Citizen?

***See the end of the checklist for official definitions*

How many of the activities below have ever related to you?

Feeling ‘at home’ and comfortable when abroad	
Learning another language	
Campaigning for action that affects multiple nations	
Reading about other cultures	
Cooking food that comes from a different nation’s typical cuisine	
Feeling lifted in mood once arriving on holiday abroad	
Joining a multinational club or organisation	
Styling your home based on traditions from another culture	
Seeing a travel show and yearning to visit that very place	
Taking an interest in international affairs	



If you have ticked a few boxes, which is probable, you are already becoming a global citizen. If we take actions that affect our knowledge and understanding of other places and cultures then we are widening our views and seeing globally. You don't have to speak Mandarin or be a seasoned traveller to be a global citizen either. Small acts and a little learning can help us show empathy for other nations.

Read the statements below and mark if you think they are true or false.

	TRUE	FALSE
Supporting local businesses don't make you a Global Citizen		
I don't support the cultural aspects of a specific country so I am not a Global Citizen		
I think we can learn a lot from other countries		
Only children are taught how to become Global Citizens		
I can't speak another language apart from my home language so I am not really a GC		
I go to the same holiday destination each year. I don't like to try new places.		
I'm too old to accept new ways of life so I'm not interested in other cultures		



Let's see what you ticked and whether that affects your ability to be a GC. It is absolutely vital for us to support our local businesses, especially the small ones. By doing this we can ensure we encourage creativity within our communities, jobs for local people and a rich diversity in our own society. Our uniqueness and quirks are what people come to see when they visit and rise versa.

You don't need to support the ways of life in every country. In some places, the human rights conditions or political ethos may not sit well with you. You don't have to go there. You can empathise with citizens of a harsh regime as they themselves may also not support it. Active campaigning is often successful when aimed specifically at people who do not have a voice within their own community.

We can learn so much from sharing our ideas, thoughts, methodologies, technologies and so on. International teams have a wealth of experiences as they incorporate people from different viewpoints and backgrounds. There will be aspects of a culture you may love but are not able to recreate at home (for example the gorgeous plant you saw on holiday may not thrive in your climate). Students always have amazing stories of their 'gap' year or exchange programme.

As for age, children are only now becoming taught about Global Citizenship. It's vital they become independent thinkers, able to problem solve through critical thinking and able to look at global issues such as climate change, women's rights and pollution as a shared problem. However, you are NEVER too old to learn new processes or support cultures that seem alien to you. No matter how set in your ways you see to feel you are, you make your own culture what it is. Staying loyal to one holiday destination, never wanting to fly or go abroad doesn't matter. Many people we meet on our actual travels are the same but they help make their society rich with the culture they are upholding. You don't have to go anywhere to learn about a new place. However it does help to broaden your outlook somewhat if you do.

Learning a language is much harder as an adult and some adults are way behind their younger generations in being multilingual. However, by studying a little about linguistics and language patterns we can keep our minds engaged and busy working hard. We can also take great pleasure in communicating - no matter how crudely - with someone in another country. It can feel really amazing and empowering to do this. Even a few phrases here and there. You probably already know lots of little bits of different languages if you really think about it.

Why do I want to be a global citizen? What's the deal

A Global Citizen ...



...takes an interest in what's happening around the world. They know that what affects one region, country or continent can affect the world (look at Covid-19!)



... understands that every culture and race may have similar issues but may deal with them in different ways.



... knows that there are worldwide issues that need joint global cooperation to work to help solve or improve (eg climate change, women's rights, plastic pollution etc)



Definitions!



"As global citizens, we are aware of our entangled connections with others in an evolving global community as if borders were invisible and diversities understood. It's the sharing of differing cultures whilst celebrating our own too. You can be patriotic but not wish to live where you heart or background lies. You hold a set a shared values with other global citizens and share responsibility for caring for our planet." YELLOWRHINO



"Global citizenship is the idea that one's identity transcends geography or political borders and that responsibilities or rights are derived from membership in a broader class: "humanity". This does not mean that such a person denounces or waives their nationality or other, more local identities, but that such identities are given "second place" to their membership in a global community." Wikipedia



"A global citizen is someone who is aware of and understands the wider world - and their place in it. They take an active role in their community, and work with others to make our planet more equal, fair and sustainable." Oxfam



- *"is aware of the wider world and has a sense of their own role as a world citizen*
- *respects and values diversity*
- *has an understanding of how the world works*
- *is outraged by social injustice*
- *participates in the community at a range of levels, from the local to the global*
- *is willing to act to make the world a more equitable and sustainable place*
- *takes responsibility for their actions" Ideas-forum.org*



Enjoy your Global Citizen journey -thank you for supporting humanity.