

# THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY

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UBC student Sarah of Malta hugs Ziaul of India.  
Photo: Les Bazso, The Vancouver Sun

## Greetings

Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*

Level 3  
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Sarah Meli of Malta, Ziaul Hasan of India, and Zelius Kleefstra of South Africa came to Vancouver to study. All three UBC (University of British Columbia) students spoke about their experiences in Canada.

### Hugging

Sarah says hugging is a big part of Maltese culture. She says Canadians don't hug or kiss when they meet. So, she does not know if her new friends like her. Canadians might only hug very good friends.

### Touching

Ziaul says in India there are one billion people, so each person has less space. Some Canadian women think he is flirting when he sits or stands close to them. Canadians like to have more space around them.

### Shaking hands

Zelius says in South Africa he shakes hands whenever he meets his friends. South Africans believe shaking hands is a sign of respect. Canadians might only shake hands the first time they meet.

### Greeting in different cultures:



A "bow" in Japanese culture  
Photo: iStockphoto

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A “wai” in Thai culture  
Photo: public domain



A “hongi” in Maori culture  
Photo: public domain



A “fist bump” in sports culture  
Photo: iStockphoto

## Exercise

Introduce the “art of the handshake”.

<http://womeninbusiness.about.com/od/businessetiquette/tp/10-Tips-on-How-to-Shake-Hands.htm>

A handshake is customary in Canada.

Start with good eye contact and a smile.

Tell learners that in Canada

a fist bump or hug is not appropriate

in circumstances where the setting is formal or where people don't know each other well.

Practice with students,

and then have learners move around the room introducing themselves.