



My country, the United States, is broken down by Hofstede Insights in their 6-D model.

In Power Distance, the US is below average because we endorse inequality between leaders and followers as a means of uniqueness. In Individualism, we score high because we associate ourselves individually much more than as a part of a collective. We score high in Masculinity because our social structure is based off of who is the best at what they do. We score below average in Uncertainty Avoidance. Though we are an innovative people, we place each other under constant scrutiny. We are low in Long Term Orientation because we are extremely focused on success in the here and now. Our indulgence is high, showing that we are a “work hard, play hard” society. This is exemplified by high drug education and increasing drug use (Hofstede Insights, 2022).

A country I have always wanted to visit is Ireland. Ireland scores roughly the same as the United States, but for different reasons. Ireland scores lower in Power Distance, but this is due to convenience and general acceptance over hierarchy than over being unique. They score less in Individualism, but still high. Irish people believe in merit but have a greater sense of

togetherness. They are more competitive socially, which gives them a higher score in Masculinity. Ireland scores lower in Uncertainty Avoidance because they are a more fact-based society. Both Long Term Orientation and Indulgence are about the same as the US. Ireland values tradition and distant goal setting, as well as enduring a culture of living in the now (Hofstede Insights, 2022).

I have had the privilege of interacting with people from vastly different cultures than myself. In doing so, it is very clear that we all hold the same sorts of value systems. While these are not identical, humans, in general, value similar behaviors and ideas. What has always stood out to me, however, is that other cultures are far more collective than Americans. We are very much living in the present, with our goals set for ourselves. Many other cultures are much more family oriented and have great concern for others.

References

Hofstede Insights. (2022). *Country Comparison*. Retrieved January 2021, from
<https://www.hofstede-insights.com/product/compare-countries/>