

Welcoming the World Cup at KU

This course will help students, staff, and faculty at the University of Kansas prepare for the 2026 World Cup as Lawrence and Kansas City serve as base camps for international soccer teams.

≡ The Basics

≡ Being Respectful Hosts

≡ Learn About the Countries

≡ Algeria

≡ Argentina

≡ England

≡ The Netherlands

≡ Conclusion

Property of the University of Kansas.
Not for distribution.

The Basics



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

World Cup and Base-Camp Basics

The [2026 World Cup](#) tournament is coming to the United States, Canada, and Mexico in the summer of 2026. The first time ever hosted by three countries, this year's tournament is the biggest ever. Forty-eight countries will compete in 104 matches between June 11 and July 19 ([scorelawrence.com](#)). Six tournament games will be played in Kansas City ([match schedule](#), PDF).

In addition to hosting matches, the greater Kansas City area was selected to host four national teams as official Team Base Camps. Serving as a "home away from home," [Team Base Camps](#) provide elite training facilities, accommodations, and operational support where teams will train, rest, and prepare throughout the tournament. Players and staff will become short-term residents in the community this summer:

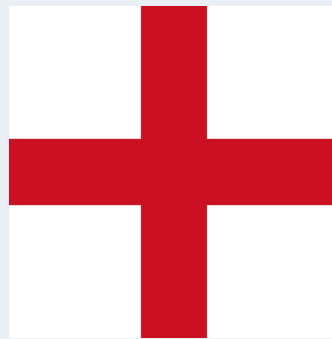
- Algeria at Rock Chalk Park in Lawrence, KS
- Argentina at Sporting KC Performance Center in Kansas City, KS
- England at Swope Soccer Village in Kansas City, MO
- The Netherlands at KC Current Training Center in Riverside, MO



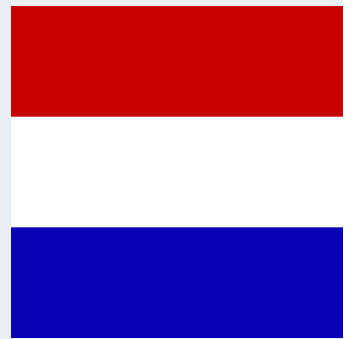
Flag of Algeria



Flag of Argentina



Flag of England



Flag of The Netherlands



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

What does this mean for KU?

World Cup activity in Lawrence and the Greater Kansas City area may mean adjustments to operations on the Lawrence, Edwards, and KU Medical Center campuses. Use the [KU Soccer Summer](#) website as a resource for important announcements.

KU will continue to educate students, make discoveries, and serve Kansas this summer as thousands of global visitors celebrate the biggest event in men's soccer, the World Cup.

KU students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to help show our guests that our community is welcoming and vibrant. Whether you encounter players, staff, and fans on campus or in your personal life, we hope you will be an excellent representative of yourself and KU.

CONTINUE

Being Respectful Hosts



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

Respect is a cornerstone of collegial environments and healthy communities—whether in the classroom, workplace, clinical setting, social environment, or sporting event. It goes beyond politeness to reflect a recognition of one another’s dignity, contributions, and lived experiences. As we prepare to host teams and games, we should recall our University Values. The [IRISE for KU Report \(2025\)](#) states, “the university recognizes the importance of different cultures, identities, abilities, and experiences. Respect at KU involves fostering a supportive environment where everyone feels valued and empowered to contribute.”

What is respect?

Respect is the recognition of the inherent dignity of others. It means genuinely valuing the qualities, skills, perspectives, and contributions of coworkers, peers, and team members—regardless of differences in background, status, or beliefs. Respect is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of civility and consideration of others, even amid disagreement.

The perception and expression of respect are shaped by cultural norms, social relationships, and values. What is respectful in one context may be interpreted differently in another. For example:

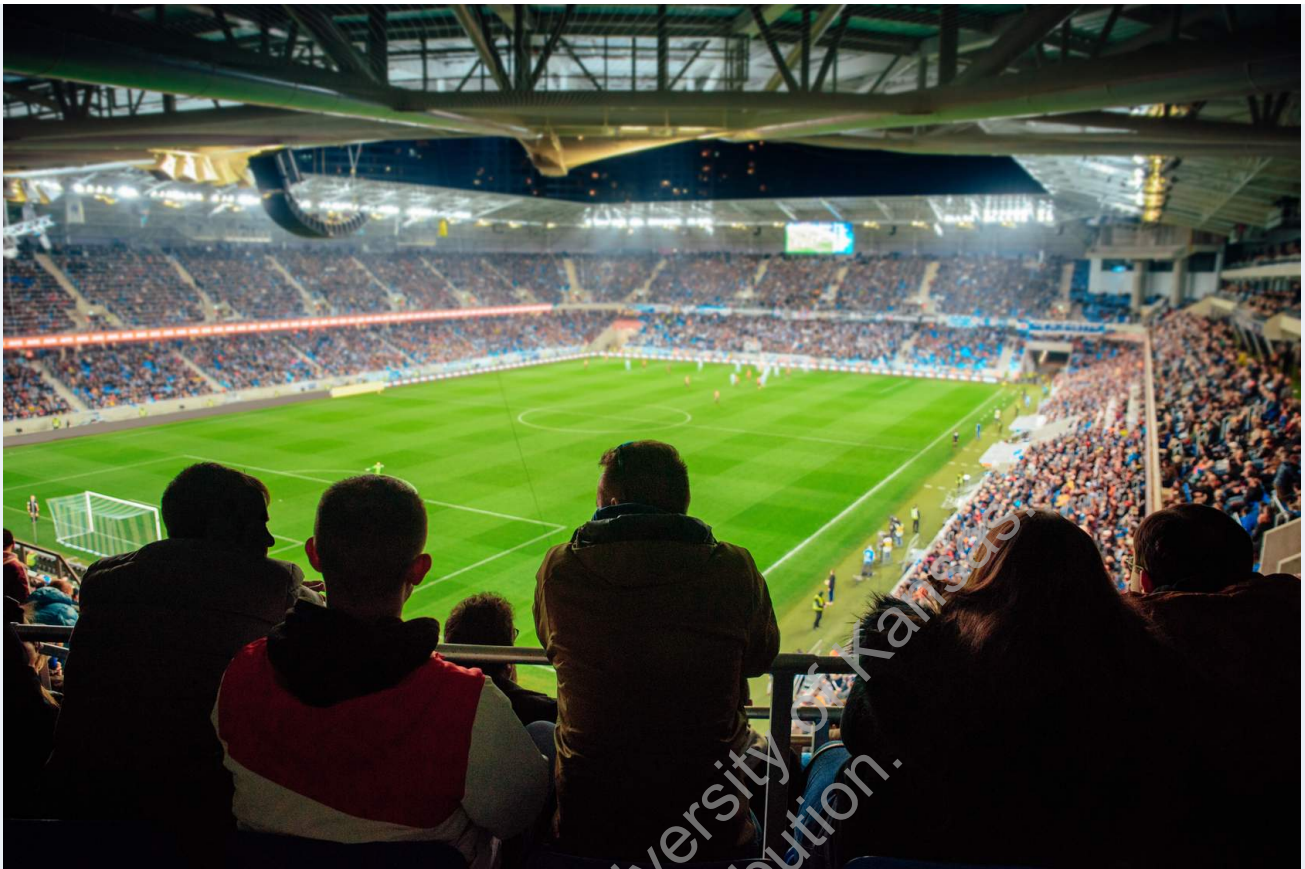
- **Punctuality:** In some cultures, punctuality reflects professionalism and respect. In others, time may be viewed more fluidly, with an emphasis on relationships over rigid schedules. An academic advisor who assumes a student’s lateness is a sign of disrespect may overlook cultural differences in time orientation.

- **Soccer Chants:** Some countries' soccer chants may be in their home language, others are popular songs. One way to show understanding is to not make assumptions about how one person might cheer for their team compared to how you might. Everyone might celebrate in different ways.
- **Dining out/tipping norms:** Tipping at restaurants may not be the norm for every country and many may not know about the American expectation. We should show our best customer service and respect to everyone who visits our establishments without judgement or assumptions about what country they may be from or what their tipping culture might be.
- **Fan fest activities:** In crowded environments, like festivals or pre-game events, norms around personal space and physical interaction can vary across cultures. Some visitors may be comfortable with close proximity, high-fives, or group celebrations, while others may prefer more personal space. A way to show respect is to be mindful of physical boundaries.
- **Religious practices:** Respect includes accommodating prayer times, fasting schedules, or Sabbath observances. Some religious or cultural traditions follow specific dietary practices, such as observing a pork-free diet. When hosting an event open to everyone, offering food options that all participants can enjoy can be a sign of understanding and respect.
- **Politeness norms:** Every culture has different norms about politeness in social and professional settings. For example, for some visitors from Algeria, an extended greeting beyond just a "Hello" is considered polite. A way to show respect would be to not rush the conversation; what might be considered small talk in the United States is a meaningful connection for others.

Reflect

How do I define respect?

How do those around me define respect?



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

Strategies for Demonstrating Respect

- **Recognize that respect means something different to each of us** – Understand what respect means to you, and how others might have a different definition.
- **Utilize the Platinum Rule** – The most respectful and affirming thing we can do is treat people how they want to be treated.
- **Seek understanding** – Make a sincere and diligent effort to develop an understanding of the individuals you interact with, learning about their lived experience, values, and beliefs.

- **Acknowledge the difference between intent and impact** - The impact of statements or actions may not match the intent. Don't assume that intentions matter more, or that sharing one's intentions absolves someone of the impact.

CONTINUE

Property of the University of Kansas.
Not for distribution.

Learn About the Countries



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

One way to demonstrate respect is to proactively seek to understand others. This section provides an introduction to the history, culture, language, religion, food and drink, and soccer culture of each country with a base-camp in the KC Metro. This information is simply an overview of the variety of experiences in each country. Please know that these summaries cannot possibly reflect the entirety of a country's background nor a person's unique experiences. We also want to recognize the numerous global communities that call the KC Metro and Lawrence home each and every day - each makes up the rich tapestry of experiences that make KU a special place.

If you want to learn more about any of the countries described, we invite you to independently research using reputable sources, consider taking courses at KU, and/or ask about an individual's lived experiences. We also encourage you to explore resources about the cultures interwoven within your local community.

The information about each country was developed by KU scholars and professionals. Our deepest appreciation to:

- Aya Fayed, Lecturer of Arabic, African and African-American Studies & Kansas African Studies Center
- Megan Greene, Associate Vice Provost for International & Global Engagement; Professor of History
- Caroline Jewers, Professor of French
- Brent Metz, Director of the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies; Professor of Anthropology
- Margot Versteeg, Chair and Professor of Spanish and Portuguese

CONTINUE

Property of the University of Kansas.
Not for distribution.

Algeria



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

Historical Background

Algeria is the largest country in all of Africa. It has a rich and layered history, a vibrant culture, and a strong sense of national identity and pride that was forged through centuries of struggle and resilience. Algeria is located in North Africa, sandwiched between the Mediterranean Sea and the Sahara Desert. The region is home to the Berbers, or Imazighen as they call themselves, who are the indigenous people of North Africa and have lived there for thousands of years. In the seventh century CE, Arab people arrived and brought with them Islam and the Arabic language. Over time, this created a shared North African cultural identity. Algeria was colonized by France in 1830. French colonization was not a peaceful partnership. The Algerian people fought back in a protracted revolution from 1954-1962 and finally won their independence in 1962. However, winning independence did not mean all the problems disappeared overnight because Algeria then had to rebuild its identity, government, and economy while dealing with the heavy legacy that colonialism had left behind. French is still a major second language, used in universities, government offices, and everyday conversation.

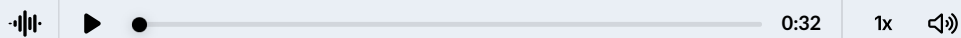
Culture

Algerians commonly greet each other with a handshake in professional and social settings. Among close friends and family of the same gender, it is common to exchange kisses on the cheek. However, between men and women who do not know each other well, physical contact is usually avoided out of respect. One important thing to know: Algerian greetings tend to be warm and extended. It is common to ask about someone's health, their family, and how things are going. Rushing through a greeting can seem cold or rude. Always take a moment to greet people, it shows respect.

Language

Algeria is a multilingual country with three main languages. Arabic is the official language, used in government, media, and education. Tamazight, the Berber language, has national and official status as well, recognizing the indigenous heritage of the Amazigh people. French remains widely used in universities, in media, in business, and in everyday conversation. In fact, many Algerians argue that embracing all three languages, Arabic, Berber, and French, plus increasing English proficiency, is key to building a modern and connected Algeria.

Useful Phrases



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

These are greetings in Algerian Darija, the everyday spoken Arabic of Algeria.

- Peace be upon you = Salam alaykum
 - This is a common greeting
 - The common reply is Waalaykum salam = "and peace be upon you too"
- Hello = Salam
- Good morning = Sbah el-khir
 - The reply is Sbah en-nur
- Good evening = Msa el-khir
- How are you doing? = Labas
 - The reply is Labas = "I'm fine"



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

Religion

Religion is a central part of life in Algeria. About 99% of the population is Muslim, and Islam shapes daily routines, celebrations, and social norms. For example, alcohol consumption is prohibited in Islamic teachings, although in practice, attitudes and behaviors can vary across different regions and social groups. Similarly, pork is religiously prohibited in Islam and is generally not part of Algerian cuisine.

Food and Drink

Many Algerians follow halal dietary guidelines, meaning pork is not consumed, and meat should be prepared according to halal standards. However, practices vary widely depending on personal beliefs and levels of observance. Alcohol is generally avoided by practicing Muslims, though this also varies, and many Algerians drink alcohol. Popular non-alcoholic beverages are mint tea, coffee, and fruit juices. Traditionally, lunch is the main meal of the day, and it is often eaten later in the afternoon, sometimes around the time dinner is typically eaten in the U.S.

Soccer

If there is one thing that unites Algerians above anything else, it might just be soccer, or football as they call it. Algeria has one of the largest diaspora communities in the world. Football is a major thread that keeps diaspora communities connected to their roots. Interestingly, many players on the Algerian national team were actually born or raised abroad, like the famous Riyad Mahrez, but they chose to represent Algeria. That speaks to their pride and love for the homeland.

- One chant that every Algerian fan knows: One, two, three, Viva l'Algérie!
- This was originally a revolutionary chant, but now it's used in support of the national team.

CONTINUE

Argentina



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

Historical Background

Argentina and Kansas share many parallels. Both have their major cities and export hubs on their eastern edge, Buenos Aires and Kansas City, and both have some roots in silver smelting, as “Argentine” means silver. “The Argentine” neighborhood in what is now Kansas City was named for its smelting. To the west of both Buenos Aires and Kansas City lie large expanses of savanna followed by mountain ranges farther in the distance (the *pampas* and the Andes in Argentina’s case). Besides cattle, wheat is a major staple in Argentina and eaten in a variety of forms, including *empanadas* (“hot pockets” or calzones), *medialunas* (half-moon breads or croissants), pastas, pizzas, and gnocchi. Both Argentina and Kansas welcomed many German immigrants in the second half of the 1800s.

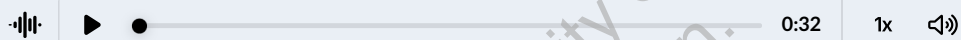
Culture

Argentina has strong influences from Italian, Spanish, Latin American, and Indigenous cultures. Like Kansas, basketball is also popular in modern Argentina; former NBA star Manú Ginóbili led the Argentine national basketball team to its first Olympic gold medal victory in 2004, the same year Argentina also won its first Olympic gold medal in men’s soccer. Unique to Argentina are its tango music and dance culture.

Language

Over 40 languages are spoken, though Spanish is most common. Argentine Spanish is unique regarding pronunciation and vocabulary. Whereas the *ll* in most Spanish countries is pronounced like the English “y”, in Argentina, Uruguay, and a few other regions in South America, it sounds more like the English “sh”. There is the unique *lunfardo* Spanish-Italian blend, which results in different vocabulary from other Spanish speakers. Moreover, Argentina is one of the remaining pockets in Latin America using *vos*, instead of *tú*, as the singular form of “you” for confidential acquaintances. Argentines understand the *tú* form, so there is no problem there, but they may respond with *vos*. In fact, most of your standard Spanish will work.

Useful Phrases



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

- Hello = Hola
- Good morning = Buenos días
- Good afternoon = Buenas tardes
- Good evening = Buenas noches
- Welcome = Bienvenidos
- You're welcome = De nada or Con mucho gusto
- Goodbye = Chau or Hasta luego
- How do you say...? = ¿Cómo se dice.....?

Non-verbal tip: Do not respond affirmatively with a thumbs up, because it has obscene connotations.



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

Religion

In 2025, 88.6% of the population identified as Christian (specifically 76.5% as Catholic), 6.9% as Agnostic, 2.1% as Muslim, and 0.9% as Atheist. The prevalence of Catholicism is attributed to the country's history of Spanish colonialism. Argentina's government is secular, and the constitution guarantees freedom of religion.

Food and Drink

Most of Argentina's immigrants came from Spain and Italy and have had a major impact on its culture, language, and diet. Hence, wine is a staple, and Argentina is one of the world's biggest producers and consumers, with Malbec as its most popular varietal. Despite having a meat-heavy diet, Argentines are sensitive to food being too fatty or too sweet. Rather than coffee, most prefer *yerba mate* (or simply *mate*), a plant native to the tropical forests in the north and adopted from the indigenous populations. If you want to stay on an Argentine's good side, don't refuse *mate*.

Soccer

Having won the World Cup three times (1978, 1986, and 2022), soccer is a huge deal in Argentina. The country has produced some of the most famous players in the history of the game, including Diego Maradona (1969–2021) and Lionel Messi, the latter of whom is a living legend who will be playing in the tournament. Local teams are followed religiously with accompanying rituals over generations. Most soccer clubs are fan-owned and thus fan-invested, so not only are pride and identity on the line in every game, but so is money. At the national level, all unite behind the "Albiceleste", a nickname for the team taken from the white and celeste-striped jerseys.

Songs and chants to spur on the national team are ever-evolving, with newly adapted songs continually added to the collection. If you dare to try to keep up, you can start by searching for current Argentinian soccer songs or the most popular chants in history.

CONTINUE

England



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

Historical Background

England is located on the island of Great Britain, and is the largest country in the United Kingdom (also comprising Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland). Britain and England are often treated interchangeably abroad [although they are not referred to as such locally]. The British flag, the red, white, and blue Union Jack, represents the United Kingdom: the constituent parts of the Union Jack are made up of flags representing England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

Culture

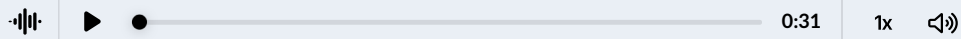
Empires leave complex legacies in their wake, and in the post-colonial period Britain, and especially England, have become diverse and multi-cultural communities integrating migrants from former colonies and many different parts of the world. Diversity has enriched English culture, food, and language – a good curry is just about the national dish now, along with fish and chips and a pint of beer. Cultural change has in recent decades altered the way that English people in particular see themselves: it has made for more cosmopolitanism, but also caused some to cling to the flag and the “old days” before rapid cultural change. This sentiment has only increased since Britain left the European Union in 2020 after 47 years of having closer ties with the continent.

Language

England does not have one official language. According to the Office for National Statistics, in 2021 91.1% of residents identified English (English or Welsh in Wales) as a main language. While English is spoken throughout the United Kingdom, other native languages are spoken, including Welsh in Wales, Gaelic and Scots in Scotland,

Cornish in Cornwall, and Irish and Ulster Scots in Northern Ireland. In 2021, the most common languages spoken, other than English, were Polish, Romanian, Panjabi, and Urdu.

Useful Phrases



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

There are a few words or phrases that are different between American and British English. A few to keep in mind:

- Restroom or Bathroom = Toilet or Loo
- Elevator = Lift
- Soccer = Football
- At a restaurant, check = Bill
- French Fries = Chips
- Chips = Crisps
- Trash Can = Bin
- Cookie = Biscuit



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

Religion

Religion is predominantly the Church of England, but there is broad tolerance of all faiths. Roughly 40% of the population identify as Christian, and 37% declare they have no religion. England also has significant Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, and Hindu populations.

Food and Drink

Many are familiar with traditional dishes like fish and chips, shepherd's pie, and a full English breakfast, which includes bacon, eggs, sausage, baked beans, tomato, mushrooms, and sometimes more. While those are still commonly served, centuries of immigration and wider trade brought new flavors to England. Notable influences include South Asian, Caribbean, Eastern European, and South African cuisines. Mealtimes are very similar to those in the USA.

Soccer

Sport plays a huge and unifying role in Britain: soccer (football) is by far the biggest sport, but there are large and faithful followings for rugby and cricket, as well as other sports like golf. The England team has a huge following, both the men's team, the Three Lions, and the very successful Lionesses. Football supporters are highly partisan and take rivalries very seriously – though they are also expressed in any number of hilarious chants.

CONTINUE

The Netherlands



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

Historical Background

The Netherlands, which is also known as Holland, is located in Northwestern Europe. "Netherlands" literally means "low countries," and refers to the Dutch landscape, 26% of which is below sea-level, and which is quite flat. Technically, Holland refers only to one region of the Netherlands, and although the word Holland is often used as a synonym for the Netherlands, people from other regions of the country sometimes object to the term being used to describe the whole country. Most residents of the Netherlands are Dutch or from other European countries, but about 5 or 6% of the population comes from former Dutch colonies.

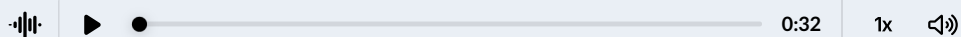
Culture

The Dutch are generally considered to be fairly progressive and tolerant.

Language

The official language of the Netherlands is Dutch, but over 90% of Dutch people are considered proficient in English.

Useful Phrases



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

- Hello = Hallo
- Hi = Hoi, common in The Netherlands
- Good morning = Goedemorgen
- Good afternoon = Goedemiddag
- Good evening = Goedenavond
- Bye = Doeï, common in The Netherlands
- See you later = Tot ziens
- Thanks = Bedankt, more casual
- Thank you = dankjewel, more formal
- You're welcome = Graag gedaan



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

Religion

Religion does not play a huge role in contemporary Dutch society. According to the Netherlands Central Agency for Statistics, approximately 58% of Dutch people do not identify with any religion, 16% Roman Catholic, 12% Protestant, 7% participate in other religions, and 6% Islam. Due to rounding, the percentages do not add up to 100%.

Food and Drink

Most Dutch eat a large variety of foods, and they are generally quite adventurous eaters. Mealtimes are similar to those in the USA, while dinner is the most important meal of the day. Generally, Dutch people tip moderately.

After a good meal for two they would leave \$5. The idea of tipping is to show one was happy with the meal.

Soccer

Soccer is closely related to the consumption of a lot of beer. Fans buy a crate of beer and sit on it while watching the match on TV. Fans will probably enjoy our breweries. Dutch soccer fans dress in orange. This is a reference to the Dutch kingdom – known as the House of Orange.

A popular song sung by fans is Links Rechts (left right) by Snollebollekes. The song has – among others – the following lines:

Welcome in the party tent, go ahead and act silly

It's a shame about the attic, but the roof is coming off

Hakken, trashing, jumping, the place is going crazy

Everyone from the left to the right, the place is getting trashed

Everyone from the left to the right, the place is getting trashed

Everyone from the left to the right, the place is getting trashed

To the left

To the right

One more time

To the left

To the right

CONTINUE

Conclusion

Knowledge Check

Take a moment to gauge how well you remember the content from this training course.

What does it mean to be a “base-camp”? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Everyone who normally lives in a location must leave
- ☐ The soccer team, staff, and fans take over the city
- ☐ Be a “home away from home”
- ☐ Continue with “business as usual” without consideration for teams visiting
- ☐ Provide elite training facilities, accommodations, and operational support

SUBMIT

Which counties will have a “base-camp” in the Kansas City Metro area?

- ☐ Austria, Australia, Egypt, Norway

- ☐ Algeria, Argentina, England, the Netherlands
- ☐ Brazil, Morocco, Scotland, Sweden
- ☐ Canada, Ecuador, Spain, Tunisia

SUBMIT

All the countries with base-camps in Lawrence/KC have similar cultures and religions.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

SUBMIT

The [University of Kansas IRISE values](#) provide a framework for treating World Cup visitors with respect.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

SUBMIT

The fans we encounter will definitely hold the exact beliefs outlined in this training.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

SUBMIT



Click to play a voice-over of the text below. Playing the audio file is not required to complete the course.

Closing & Resources

In this course, we reviewed details about the upcoming FIFA World Cup taking place in North America during Summer 2026. Participants learned about each of the four countries with base-camps in the Kansas City Metro and considered how they can be respectful hosts. We thank you for completing this training.

For more information on the World Cup, please visit:

- [FIFA Men's World Cup](#)
- [KC 2026](#)
- [Score Lawrence 2026](#)
- [KU Soccer Summer](#)

If you are interested in learning more about the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX, you can [visit our website](#) or [contact us](#) via phone, email, or in person.

Acknowledgements

Thank you again to the KU scholars who contributed their professional and personal expertise to this course. And thanks to the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX staff members who contributed to the development of this

training, including Lisa, Tyler, Addison, and many more.

Finished! You may Exit the course now.

[EXIT THE COURSE](#)

Property of the University of Kansas.
Not for distribution.