



THE LANGUAGE FLAGSHIP

Creating Global Professionals

IU CHINESE LANGUAGE FLAGSHIP PARTNER PROGRAM ABSTRACT

The College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University (IU) is honored to join with the National Security Education Program's (NSEP) Language Flagship to create the IU Chinese Flagship. The goal of Chinese Flagships—developing global professionals with superior Mandarin proficiency—is both ground-breaking and ambitious. Such a goal demands that the traditional boundaries of language study be broadened and that the curriculum be intensified. The IU Flagship highlights the significance of connecting language study to disciplinary knowledge and professional performance in the context of a global society.

Building on the pioneering work of other Chinese Flagships, especially at Brigham Young University, The Ohio State University, and University of Oregon, and administered through the Center for Chinese Language Pedagogy (CCLP) with the support of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, our program will advance the core mission of the Language Flagship by implementing a new paradigm for advanced language education focusing on three key components: curriculum, teacher development, and wide dissemination of concepts and materials.

Most significantly, we are designing a new honors-level curriculum to develop superior language proficiency among selected advanced Chinese language learners. Students who have already shown outstanding talent and commitment through the fourth-level of study will take an additional year of targeted coursework on campus and another year studying abroad, to include one semester of direct enrollment in a Flagship overseas study program, plus an internship experience customized to each student's professional goals. To take advantage of IU's outstanding faculty expertise in Chinese culture from politics and business to literature, history, and religious studies, while at the same time incorporating vanguard language pedagogy, the Flagship coursework will involve paired clusters of content and language courses emphasizing interpretation, analysis, and presentation of Chinese cultural concepts, artifacts, and events from a global perspective, for an authentic purpose, and within a performance assessment framework. Intensive lower-level language courses will be made available by scholarship to outstanding students so that this rigorous advanced training may still be completed within the standard four years of a B.A. program.

At the same time that this college curriculum is developed, we are working with selected regional high schools to augment Chinese language programs and provide additional professional development opportunities for teachers.

The curriculum will be enhanced by pedagogical research sponsored by the Center for Chinese Language Pedagogy. In accordance with Language Flagship principles, curriculum development and materials will be disseminated widely for general use.

In Spring 2009, the first group of IU Chinese Flagship students will be identified. For more information (while the website is under construction), please e-mail cclp@indiana.edu.

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