



THE LANGUAGE FLAGSHIP

Creating Global Professionals

MYCHINA: THE THIRD PARADIGM OF LANGUAGE LEARNING

ABSTRACT

Many of the most academically qualified students do not have sufficient Chinese language skills (ILR 2) to succeed in undergraduate Flagship programs, and there are currently few K-12 programs designed to give them those skills. Traditionally, the only language learning options for students have been classroom instruction and, for a very few, study abroad. CASLS, in a public-private partnership with Centric and Avant Assessment, will develop a third paradigm, MyChina, which will allow students to interact naturally with Chinese speakers in a structured yet authentic socio-cultural Chinese context within the virtual world of Second Life. Second Life and other virtual worlds are self-organizing online communities where avatars representing real “first world” people engage in economic and social activity. CASLS will structure the MyChina experience around game-based scenarios in which learners navigate through the virtual world by performing a variety of language-rich tasks with native-speaking Chinese residents.

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