

Advanced Language Training and Study Abroad: Language Learning Environment for Advanced Learners

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Japanese as a Foreign Language has grown tremendously as a professional field in the last couple of decades, resulting in numerous programs and, more notably, more programs with multiple levels of instruction. As the profession matures, the challenges we face also shift from how to start up or maintain young programs to how to accommodate students who seek truly advanced levels in the target language. The Chinese Flagship Program, federally-funded programs for advanced language and culture, provides a model for building Language Learning Environment for Advanced Learners (LLEAL). I examine the features of the CFP at the Ohio State University and identify the ingredients that contribute to making a viable LLEAL. In particular, I call for a shift in our mindset. The proficiency movement called for the instruction that prepared students to use the language to do things in the target community. For the LLEAL, we need to coach our students to do things to advance their language skills. I will suggest some examples of how this might be implemented in a program of instruction. Another important component of LLEAL is a comprehensive assessment management system. The Chinese Flagship Program has something to offer there as well. I will showcase their Advanced Language Performance Portfolio System (ALPPS).