



23 July 2012

Invitation and Plain Language Statement

Blended Learning Chinese Programs in Victoria

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to invite you to take part in a research project to be conducted by Yuanlin Zhao from the Chinese Teacher Training Centre (CTTC) at the University of Melbourne. The task for you will be completion of an anonymous online survey about your use of technology in your Chinese program. The details of which are set out here.

Blended provision, a mixture of face-to-face and online teaching, has been evident in its wide array of benefits to teaching and learning, among which are increased learning opportunities, improved flexibility in time, student choice and teaching method, as well as enhanced learner engagement. Languages education has been shown to benefit the most (compared to English and Maths) from the introduction of technology into classroom practice (DEECD, 2013). However, we do not yet know how blended learning is provided in Victorian school Chinese programs, nor in what ways it is being employed effectively. The aim of the project is to gather this knowledge.

This is an invitation to you to participate in an anonymous online survey. There are 20 questions and it will take no more than **20 minutes** to fill in. If you agree to take part, please do so by opening the Survey at https://qasatrial.asia.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3azJBih7lKpP78h.

Please note that your participation should be entirely voluntary and that you are free to withdraw at any time, and to withdraw any of your unprocessed data.

All data will be kept confidential within the limits of the law and neither your name nor the name of your school will be used in reporting the results. At all times, the data will be kept securely in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne and after five years from the date of publication, will be destroyed.

I have received permission to undertake this research from the Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of Melbourne and the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development/ Catholic Education Office. If you have any concerns about the conduct of the project, you may talk to me, or contact the Executive Officer, Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of Melbourne, ph: (61 3) 8344 2073, or fax: (61 3) 9347 6739.

Once the research project report has been completed, a copy of the results will be made available on the CTTC Website. It is also possible that the results will be presented at academic conferences.

I hope you will find it interesting and rewarding to take part in this research. You certainly would make a contribution to the teaching of Chinese in Victoria and beyond. I have requested permission from your principal for you to take part, so you should check with her/him. I hope to hear from you!

Yours sincerely,

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