

IPSL IRB PROTOCOL Proposal

Principal Investigator's Name: **Multiple Graduate and Undergraduate IPSL Students**

P.I. Email: **NA**

Phone Number: **NA**

Mailing Address: **NA**

Additional Principal Investigator's Name (if applicable)

Email: **NA**

Phone Number: **NA**

Mailing Address: **NA**

Research Title: **Center for Sustainable Development Studies (CSDS) Community English Teaching Program Quality Improvement Study**

Research Question: **What are the current components of the CSDS Community English Language program and what educational tools and support programs can be developed to improve the outcomes of the program?**

Institution: **NA**

Academic Oversight: **IPSL Institute for Global Learning**

Other Research Ethics Committee Approval: **NA**

IPSL Location: **Hanoi, Vietnam**

Have you Undergone Training in Human Research Subject Protection? **All student PI's will receive training and submit NIH certificate of completion to IPSL before engaging in project.**

Exempt Review? **NO since everyone is identifiable; probably expedited.**

Project Summary/Abstract (for Original research only): **NA**

Background/Statement of Problem: **English Community Classes provide an alternative English learning environment for students. Students who attend such classes mainly come to Hanoi for their study from provinces outside of Hanoi. They can be from 10-20 and are grouped according to their English level and their age. Community classes focus on groups of students who want to improve their English skills, especially speaking and conversational skills. It also helps to improve students' confidence in using a foreign language. The classes run for sessions of eight weeks, and there are six sessions per year: spring, summer, late summer, autumn, and two in winter. In each session there are four classes, with each class meeting twice per week for two hours each time.**

The classes use an interactive learning method, with instructors using a wide variety of activities designed to encourage proper pronunciation and knowledge of English vocabulary. There is no age restriction for participating, though most

students are under the age of 25. Participants pay a one-time fee to cover the cost of printing materials, and are taught by volunteer instructors. The classes are at a beginner level and are aimed at increasing the participant's confidence in speaking English and listening skills.

CSDS does not have sufficient objective data to analyze the effectiveness of their community English language programs. They would like to have this to improve outcomes and for general quality improvement efforts.

Objectives: **To collect information through observation, focus groups; interviews and surveys about the current methods of ESL teaching techniques and the effectiveness (or lack) of these methods.**

Hypothesis: NA

Subjects:

- 1. Students of the CSDS English Language Teaching Program**
- 2. Teachers of the CSDS English Language Teaching Program**
- 3. Staff of the CSDS English Language Teaching Program**
- 4. Director of the CSDS English Language Teaching Program**

Gender(s): **Male and Female**

Age Range:

Students: 10+ (Minors will need parental consent)

Staff and Teachers: 18+

Planned Number of Subjects: **20 to 30_students; 3 staff; 10 volunteer teachers**

Duration of Study: **Project is 3 months then ongoing**

Methods and Procedure: **Student researchers will review current methods of English as a second language teaching to establish background data in best practices.**

Interviews of Staff: **Background information gathered will include recorded focus group with the director and staff regarding successes and failures, current teaching methods and teaching materials used.**

Class Observations of Students: **Researchers will conduct class observations of community students of different ages and levels currently engaged in the English Language program.**

Interviews of Students: **Researchers will conduct interviews of students (delivered orally with potential assistance of a translator) at the beginning of the 8 week course and at the end, asking questions in areas such as student goals and motivation, self-assessment etc.**

Surveys of Volunteer teachers: **Written surveys of the international volunteer teachers will be conducted as well, midway through the course. Researchers can help identify areas of weakness and strengths in the program and help develop staff and volunteer training modules, teaching materials and lesson plans or new teaching techniques.**

Identifying Data Points To Be Collected: (i.e. Subject name, birthday etc...)

Staff: **Position at school; how long they have been involved with program**
Volunteer teachers: **nationality; age; gender; English fluency**
Adult Students: **nationality; age; gender**
Minor Students: **nationality; age; gender**

Privacy/Confidentiality Protections:

CSDS Staff Focus Group: **There is no confidentiality on a focus group however, no identifying information will be written down in the recorded session (s)**

Students: **surveys are delivered verbally in a private location. Surveys are de-identified and kept in secure location.**

Volunteer Teachers: **Written surveys are delivered in a private location. Surveys are de-identified and kept in secure location**

Describe the Risks of this research:

For Staff: **None. Recorded focus group will not include names.**

For Volunteer teachers: **None, as survey's are de-identified and held with the student PIs in a secure location off site.**

For students: **None?**

Vulnerable Populations: **Minor Children_ - see consent plan below**

Recruitment Process: **CSDS staff and Language teacher volunteers will be asked via a verbal information script (in English) if they would like to participate in the recorded interviews.**

Consent Process:

Staff: **Verbal, via a written explanation.**

Volunteer Teachers: **Verbal, via a written explanation.**

Adult Students: **Verbal, via a written explanation through a translator**
Minor Students: **Parents will be consented verbally via a written explanation through a translator**

Verbal consent exemption reasoning: **individual interviews and surveys (verbal) provides for anonymity. Focus group(s) will be advised to respect statements made by others in the group and not reveal statements attributed to specific individuals.**

Data/Statistical Analysis: **A summary report of each research “session” along with the complied raw data will be written and provided to CSDS.**

Additional Comments/Clarifications: **NA**

Principal Investigator's Signature: **NA**

How did you hear about the IPSL IRB? **NA**

Attachments: (In final document please be sure to include: Any/all consent forms, any/all recruitment materials, any/all interview/survey questions or data points to be collected.