About Shenyang University SIS

Shenyang University is a four-year college in Northeast China with more than 23,000 full-time undergraduates. The School of International Studies (formerly the first International Business School in Liaoning Province) has emerged as the pilot area of Shenyang University focused on the internationalization of education and reform of education and teaching.

▶ http://en.syu.edu.cn/

"The Rosetta Stone program simulates an authentic language environment with many images, expressions, and sounds from real life. Students are able to develop their lexical and grammatical knowledge while training in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Meanwhile, their English sensibility is also cultivated in an effective way."

—Faculty member
English Reading and Vocabulary
Shenyang University

Blended English language learning benefits students and teachers

Shenyang University is a four-year general undergraduate college in Northeast China founded in the 1980s. The School of International Studies (SIS) was created in 2014 and has emerged as the University's pilot area focused on the internationalization of education and reform of education and teaching.

Pursuing excellence

The SIS goal is for students to become well-versed in foreign languages, international rules, and professional knowledge. A creative teaching model with a collaborative method cultivates students' advanced economic and engineering management talents. The model also promotes a strong sense of social responsibility, innovative spirit, cooperative ability, environmental adaptability, and sustained self-learning.

Since May 2015, the SIS has continued to reform its method of English language teaching to develop students' English proficiency, self-learning, and critical thinking ability. After trials and comparative analyses of several language learning platforms, the department chose the Rosetta Stone® solution. They applied the program to the English Reading and Vocabulary course to blend online and offline learning. Additionally, the Rosetta Stone curriculum was chosen to facilitate students' English study because it accurately corresponded to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Implementing the plan

Students in the School of International Studies must achieve an English proficiency skill level of 5.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scale. This enables students to meet the requirement of a German cooperative college and have the chance to study in Germany after their junior year. Putting the new blended learning approach into practice allowed the department to:

- use the Rosetta Stone placement test to assess and grade newly enrolled freshman students' language performance.

- assign personalized learning tasks to each student based on test results.

- provide student progress statistics to teachers that showed study habits, work trends, and success rates, and to set requirements for extending students' self-learning time.

- let students decide their own learning pace, anywhere and anytime.

- enable teachers to bring the self-learning course to the class for assignments, answering questions, or practicing key points for language application

Assessing the results

The entire pilot project is expected to last 2 years (2017-2019). 825 undergraduates majoring in industrial engineering and automation take part in the program. By December 2018, the average online learning time was 87 hours per student, or at least 1.5 hours a week. Of those students, 521 finished achievement tests once a semester, with 289 students receiving a higher score in the second test. 7.3 percent of students who finished two achievement tests increased their score by more than 100 points and 6.9 percent of students elevated their language performance at least one CEFR level. The Rosetta Stone course arrangements and the SIS learning method developed students' English abilities and self-learning habits.

Recognizing the benefits

The Rosetta Stone program developed students' involvement in online learning and helped to cultivate their self-learning awareness.

- Online language learning has become an important aid for daily English teaching.

- Adding statistical reporting allows teachers to put more time and energy into research and preparing lessons.

- Placement, achievement, and progress testing enables teachers to monitor students' initial English proficiency levels, ongoing learning progress, and final learning results.

- Test results are also considered in students' formal performance evaluations.

Planning for the future

The School of International Studies plans to continue using the Rosetta Stone program in English language class. Extending the space and time available for language learning will lead students to develop better learning habits and continue to provide statistics in the teacher portal. To further combine online and offline study, the relevant topics and interactive function within the Rosetta Stone program will be used for classroom discussion and debate.

About Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone is dedicated to using the power of language and literacy education to change people's lives. Millions of inspired learners have used our online and mobile solutions at home, in the workplace, and in schools around the world.