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Learning Outcomes and the HSK Exam Results among the Students who Went on a Semester-Long Study Abroad Program in Chinese Speaking Regions

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Abstract : Since 2007, semester-long study abroad programs have been offered at Kokugakuin University. In order to assess learning outcomes of the programs, participants are asked to take the HSK, a Chinese proficiency test. This paper attempts to validate the learning effect by analyzing the examination results of the HSK from 2011 (the 5th group) through to 2014 (the 8th group), which adds up to a total of four student groups. Until the 7th group, the program was held at the College of Chinese Language and Culture at Nankai University in Tianjin. The 8th group went to Fudan University in Shanghai. In both the universities, the language classes were consisted of the participants from Kokugakuin University only, aiming to equip them with necessary language skills to pass the HSK Grade 4. Every year, participants take the HSK at the beginning of each program, early September and December. Majority of the participants sit for Grade 4 or 5. The results of the analysis of the students' achievements indicate that it is possible to acquire proficiency level which is equivalent to the HSK Grade 4 upon completion of a three-month study abroad program. Those students who already have a proficiency level around the HSK Grade 4 could possibly reach Grade 5.

Keywords : study abroad in China ; semester-long study abroad ; HSK ; learning outcomes ; Chinese language learning