



Application for Approval of a Proposed Research Project by a Non-Employee Researcher

Applicant's Name: Yaxuan Zhang

Affiliation (College or University) or Employer: Teachers College, Columbia University

Date of Application: 2/13/2025

Please provide the following information, with as much detail as possible:

State the purpose of the research project: Analyze teaching techniques and environments supporting bilingual students and language learners

Detailed description of the research project: My current semester courses focus on Linguistics (phonetics and phonology), Science content learning for bilingual students, and general Language Learning practices. The goal of observation/fieldwork is to see first hand how educators plan and deploy concepts and techniques to support students with various cultural backgrounds and language capabilities. I will likely use some classroom examples as case studies in my course work, and will make sure pseudonyms are used to keep staff/student names confidential.

Provide any background information necessary to an understanding of the project: I am a current graduate student at Columbia University, Teachers College with the Bilingual Bicultural Education program. For my program, one key component is to engage with local schools to observe classes related to my field of study, which include bilingual classes, world language English Language Learning (ELL) and English as Second Language (ESL) classes, and other similar subjects.

Projection of the number of pupils involved in the research project: Up to 5 students for analysis of learning scenarios.

Projection of the number of Closter teachers, administrators or staff involved in the research project: Up to 3 for analysis of different classrooms and teaching styles.

State the specific ways in which pupils will be involved: Their classroom experience will be observed.

State the estimated duration of the project: 5~10 classroom hours.

Provide the names of persons who will conduct their research and their relevant affiliations:
Yaxuan Zhang, current graduate student at Teachers College, Columbia University.

To what degree, if any, the project will interrupt or displace the regular instructional program:
Should not cause any interruption, it will be an observation approach.



List any possible benefits to the pupils or the Closter Public School District: At end of the research/obersvation, I can provide feedback and suggestion to the educators based on the research and best practices from the Columbia University education.

Describe the contribution the project will make to the educational program of this district: At end of the research/obersvation, I can provide feedback and suggestion to the educators based on the research and best practices from the Columbia University education.

Will the final research report be shared with the district? ☐ YES ☒ NO

Other comments: Click here to enter text.