General Concept

This is a pilot for connecting students with native speakers globally without the financial burden of travel. Producing students who are globally fluent is a contact "sport" that relies heavily on collaboration, group learning, and interacting with native and non-native speakers alike. For all intents and purposes, we can consider language and culture living entities that reflect a community/population. They evolve along with the people and are more of a snapshot of life. Students, when they do not have the opportunity to travel because of cost and/or schedules are at a disadvantage on a global scale. In our effort to provide for our students a global education, we can increase the immediacy and consistency of their immersive international experiences.

Our idea for enacting this concept is by providing professors and students a space that promotes international distance education and non-linear learning simultaneously. To be clear, this is not merely lecture capture we are discussing. This is small group interaction without regard to geographic location. Currently, many students already collaborate and gather in small groups to chat, game, etc. using their personal devices to create their own culture/community, but we do not have a space designed intentionally to develop this interaction between students, faculty, and scholars on an international scale.