

MANCHESTER
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The University of Manchester



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ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

at The University of Manchester

www.confuciusinstitute.manchester.ac.uk



OVERVIEW

In a year of transition, we welcomed a full team of eight volunteer teachers in September to help offer more in-person learning and cultural activities. We had tremendous achievements in language education and cultural exchange and, at the same time, faced great uncertainty under the intense media attention on Confucius Institutes in the UK and geopolitical tension.

Highlights included William Hart, a university medical student, winning the top prize of the Chinese Bridge competition in the UK and being in the final 30 contestants worldwide, the best outcome in our history. William became a language ambassador for us and set the example for other language learners.

Our volunteer teachers performed well at the UK Chinese Teaching Skills competition, scooping up all the top prizes in the England Central & North region. One won the top prize for adult group and the other third prize for the children's group at the final competition in London in 2023.



Our cultural programme was diverse, ranging from cooking classes and public talks, to the celebration of Chinese festivals. Highlights included the *China Opens its Door* photo exhibition and the premier of a new commission *Behind the Curtained Door*, welcoming thousands of visitors and theatre audiences to Manchester and adding diversity to the city and region's cultural life.

The University hosted the visit of the new Chinese Ambassador, Zheng Zeguan, who met some of our students and staff.

We organised an in-person workshop for UK CI Directors and professional staff in September, where colleagues exchanged their best practices and shared their challenges.



TEACHING & LEARNING

Our language courses cover a wide range of levels and forms including Comprehensive Mandarin, Conversational Mandarin, Advanced Mandarin, HSK Preparation and one-to-one tuition, and they were delivered in person and online. The total adult student number was 286, the highest of the three-year pandemic period. It was the result of great teamwork, with the adoption of innovative pedagogy, effective use of technology and creative marketing, and most of all, it reflected the dedication of all staff members.

We transitioned from recorded lessons in 2020 and 2021, to in-person teaching at Stockport Grammar School. There was a slight increase in the number of learners at the three Confucius Classrooms. Bolton School for Boys decided not to continue as a Confucius Classroom.

The development of the Online Beginner Mandarin course was ongoing with all the contents in place. The next stage is for the developer to turn them into applications, aiming to have the full product by the end of 2023. This is our first home-developed language learning resource which we hope will service the needs of future learners.



TESTING & TEACHER TRAINING

As an HSK test centre, we held three home-based tests in March, June and December to meet the increasing demand near and far. With two years' experience of conducting home-based tests, we had developed a smooth process of operation, overcoming many technical issues. With fewer testing centres during the pandemic, we provided satisfactory services to 183 test-takers, the highest number for the last five years. Many wrote us thank-you emails.

This year, we launched a new training programme titled Teaching Skills Exchange & Training in partnership with the College of Chinese International Education at Beijing Normal University. The programme was developed to explore new approaches to teacher training, moving away from the traditional expert lecture to a case study informed discussion and expert comments. Following four days of teaching demonstration in July, three teachers were awarded 'The Best Performing Teacher', including two of our volunteer teachers. Participants were also invited to a joint session with their counterparts in California, USA.



CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

A full year of cultural activities were delivered, ranging from talks, film screening, exhibitions to theatre performances. We held five online talks on the topics of Chinese contemporary drama, tea culture, wildflowers, careers as a Mandarin Teacher and the UK Graduate scheme. We also held three in-person talks at the Central Library on life in China in the 1980s, Chinese music composition and male beauty in China. These diverse topics reflected the different interests of the local audiences.

Two key events were the *China Opens its Door* photo exhibition at the Central Library and the premier of a new commissioned play *Behind the Curtained Door* at the Martin Harris Centre. The photographer Adrian Bradshaw gave a public talk on '*The Door Opened - 1980s China*' presenting the historic background of the photos used for the exhibition. The exhibition attracted thousands of visitors in six months from January to July. *Behind the Curtained Door* was produced, directed and performed by UoM students and received great feedback at its premier in September, which led to a UK tour of Leeds, Nottingham and Edge Hill in 2023.



Our popular cooking classes took place in June, October and December. This year's Language Partner event was the largest, attracting 110 participants of Chinese language learners and Chinese students at UoM. These events contributed to the understanding and exchange of different cultures and provided a unique opportunity for people to make new friends through language learning.

In celebration of the Chinese New Year, we organised a lion dance on campus and the performance of the popular Chinese legend story of Mulan to hundreds of delighted school kids. We also delivered cultural workshops in local schools to give them a taste of Chinese culture.



2022 Income and Expenditure

Unit: US\$

Income	496,259
Funding from UoM	298,140
Tuition Fees	75,724
Funding from BNU	53,584
Carry-over from 2021	68,811
Expenditure	483,044
Staffing	197,650
Activities	87,134
Administration	198,260
Fund Carried forward to 2022	13,215