

MANCHESTER
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The University of Manchester



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

at The University of
Manchester

www.confuciusinstitute.manchester.ac.uk



OVERVIEW

Amidst ongoing global uncertainties and the departure of two local professional services staff, we continued to deliver high-quality teaching and learning activities with the support of volunteer teachers and the Chinese Director from Beijing Normal University, ensuring the continuity of our programmes.

Key highlights included Sol Stappard winning the UK championship of the 'Chinese Bridge' competition and ranking among the final 15 contestants worldwide. Another participant, Fu Lian Doble, received the Best Talent Prize. Both travelled to China to take part in the global stage of the competition.

Two of our volunteer teachers were awarded first and third prizes in the UK Chinese Teaching Skills Competition, reflecting the high standards of teaching at our Institute. Our team also received the Best Organising Prize for the Short Video Competition organised by the Chinese International Education Foundation, with student and staff productions winning top honours.



In November, we hosted the visit of Professor Ma Jun, President of Beijing Normal University, to the University of Manchester. Professor Ma met with our staff and encouraged continued efforts in promoting cross-cultural understanding and mutual exchange through language education. Beijing Normal University also hosted the first post-pandemic summer language programme for our students, who reported a valuable opportunity to practise Mandarin and experience life in Beijing.

Our cultural programme was diverse, encompassing literature, public talks, and Chinese festival celebrations. The Book of Beijing was published in July, and authors Gu Shi and Wen Zhen presented their stories at the Manchester Literature Festival in October. Following the successful premiere of Behind the Curtained Door at the Martin Harris Centre, the play toured universities in Leeds, Nottingham, and Edge Hill in June 2023.



TEACHING & LEARNING

Our language courses encompassed a range of levels and formats, including Comprehensive Mandarin, Conversational Mandarin, Advanced Mandarin, HSK Preparation, and one-to-one tuition, delivered both in person and online. The total number of adult learners was 191, representing a 40% decrease, attributed in part to a general decline in language learning and staff departures. Nevertheless, feedback on our teaching remained positive, particularly regarding our use of innovative pedagogy, effective integration of technology, and the commitment of teaching staff.

We were invited to participate in the Rochdale Sixth Form Open Day to promote Mandarin language learning, which led to the establishment of an afterschool club for 20 sixth formers. Encouragingly, interest in similar initiatives from other local schools has been observed, following a period of inactivity during the pandemic.



TESTING & TEACHER TRAINING

As an HSK testing centre, we conducted one home-based test in March and two online tests in June and December, in addition to two YCT tests in local schools. Following the discontinuation of home-based testing by the International Chinese Testing Centre, all assessments must now be held in designated testing centres, limiting accessibility for some candidates. We recorded a total of 120 test-takers for the year.

Our teacher training programme this year continued to adopt a peer-sharing model with expert commentary. In July, seven of our volunteer teachers demonstrated their teaching methods, and Ms Yang Zizi delivered a seminar on incorporating digital technologies into Chinese language education for local educators.



CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

A slightly reduced set of cultural activities was delivered in 2023, including talks, film screenings, and theatre performances. Our public talk on the History of Chinese Names was well received on campus, and the publication of *The Book of Beijing* marked another successful collaboration with Comma Press.

Our annual Language Partner event again brought together dozens of Mandarin learners and Chinese students at the University of Manchester. The UK tour of *Behind the Curtained Door* contributed to greater awareness of the lived experiences of Chinese communities in the UK.

We hosted a lion dance on campus for the second time and also contributed to Chinese New Year celebrations at the Manchester Museum. In June, we took part in the North West Confucius Institute Dragon Boat Race hosted by Edge Hill University.



FINANCE

2023 Income and Expenditure

Unit: US\$

Income	504,280
Funding from UoM	334,140
Tuition Fees	67,627
Funding from BNU	89,300
Carry-over from 2022	13,215
Expenditure	469,524
Staffing	207,103
Activities	64,241
Administration	198,180
Fund Carried forward to 2024	34,756