

MANCHESTER
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The University of Manchester



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

at The University of
Manchester

www.confuciusinstitute.manchester.ac.uk



OVERVIEW

The Manchester Confucius Institute experienced an exciting year of growth in both language learning and cultural participation, with a full team in place. We witnessed renewed interest in learning Mandarin among the general public, some of whom joined the Mandarin summer school in Beijing. We continued to deliver high-quality teaching and learning activities, share culture through workshops, talks and performances as well as providing language and wellbeing support to the University's students and staff on campus.

Key highlights included increased student numbers on our adult courses from 191 in 2023 to 274. We were teaching in seven local schools and three Confucius Classrooms, totalling over 800 children. On the cultural side, we had several high impact performances including the first Chinese student-organised New Year concert *Sonic Reverie – A Chinese New Year Concert* and the premiere of the commissioned play *Another Life* at the Martin Harris Centre to a warm reception from an audience of around 200 people at each performance. For the first time, we won the Northwest CI Dragon Boat Race in a friendly competition.



UoM student Chidimma Daisy Anyakora won the 2024 'Chinese Bridge' Chinese Proficiency Competition UK Regional Final, and this was the third time UoM candidates had won the UK competition in the past three years. Another participant, Julia Makosa, won the second prize in the 5th Chinese Competition of Charitable Projects & Business Innovations for UK University Students.

We had a full and diverse programme of cultural activities this year and delivered over 80 hours of workshops around the Chinese New Year to local schools, businesses and UoM departments and halls of residence. We participated in the Chinese New Year celebrations at Manchester Museum and Central Library with hundreds of audience members. Building on the success of the Chinese New Year concert, we organised a series of public talks titled *Instruments in Chinese Music* at the Central Library, showcasing the erhu, violin and zither. These performances and cultural activities provided opportunities for UoM students to share their passion and showcase their talents. Other public talks covered topics such as women in science fiction and low carbon East Asian food.



TEACHING, TRAINING & TESTING

The Institute offers the most comprehensive range of language levels in the UK to Mandarin learners, with more than 20 different courses. Thanks to high teaching quality, effective marketing and the use of ICT, the number of our adult learners increased by 43% to 274. The number of after-school clubs increased from one to seven including Stockport Grammar School, Rochdale Sixth Form College, Co-op Academy Belle Vue, Lowry Academy, Our Lady's RC Academy, Moor Allerton Preparatory School and the number of pupils learning Mandarin in these seven schools and the three Confucius Classrooms totalled 831, an increase of 72%.

As we reverted to paper-based HSK tests, the number of HSK test-takers has declined significantly, and we held two tests in June and December for 44 candidates.

Our teachers received a rigorous induction programme on arrival, through which they completed the essential training required of all new staff members working at the UoM. We held monthly teaching discussions to share best practices and address emerging challenges such as classroom behaviour management.



We also attended training and conferences offered by other institutions such as the Institute of Education, University College London, the British Chinese Language Teaching Association, Chinese Language Education and Cooperation UK.



CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

Following a dip in 2023, we had a full and diverse programme of cultural workshops and events throughout the year. We continued to commission new plays and offer students the opportunity to write, produce, direct and act in work reflecting their lives. Another Life is about five individual stories including a student from Hong Kong who had recently arrived at Manchester to embark on her studies, first- and second-generation of immigrants and Chinese who had recently settled in the UK, and the play explored identity, relationships and connections. It was written by two UoM graduates and performed by current and past students from a wide range of disciplines. It premiered at the Martin Harris Centre to a warm reception from the audience.

Some talented Chinese students initiated and organised the first Chinese New Year concert, featuring traditional and contemporary music through voice and instruments, to a full house at the Martin Harris Centre. Some of the performers went on to deliver public talks at the Central Library in the series Instruments in Chinese Music.



Our Annual Language Partner Event again brought together dozens of Mandarin learners and Chinese students at the University of Manchester. We hosted a lion dance on campus and participated in the Chinese New Year celebrations at the Manchester Museum. In May, we took part in the North West Confucius Institute Dragon Boat Race hosted by the University of Liverpool and won the race.



2024 Income and Expenditure

Unit: US\$

Income	565,002
Funding from UoM	339,650
Tuition Fees	88,355
Funding from BNU	102,241
Carry-over from 2023	34,756
Expenditure	494,634
Staffing	226,367
Activities	70,517
Administration	197,750
Fund Carried forward to 2025	70,368