

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

at The University of Manchester

www.confuciusinstitute.manchester.ac.uk



OVERVIEW

The Manchester Confucius Institute continued to develop as a centre for Mandarin learning and cultural exchange through a varied and engaging public programme. In 2025, environmental sustainability was a particular focus of our engagement with University of Manchester students and local communities through two projects: Seeds of Hope and Action and Real Contentment.

Adult course enrolments increased from 274 in 2024 to 313 in 2025, a rise of 14%. We also taught Mandarin in five local schools and three Confucius Classrooms, reaching 760 pupils. Sandy Chipolina, a University of Manchester student, was runner-up in the fifth Chinese Competition of Charitable Projects & Business Innovations for UK University Students. She subsequently took part in the international Chinese Bridge competition in China in August.

Our cultural programme attracted hundreds of spectators to performances by Tangram Collective and JinLong. At the Martin Harris Centre, the London-based Chinese ensemble Tangram Collective and performance artist Echo Morgan presented



a lunchtime concert exploring the sea and sustainability, drawing on the Chinese concept of the interdependence of humanity and nature. A Chinese acrobatics performance at the Royal Northern College of Music entertained more than 300 pupils from local schools. In June, we hosted the annual North West Confucius Institute Dragon Boat Race at Salford Quays, with eight teams competing. Throughout the year, our Chinese cultural workshops, games and demonstrations, ranging from tea ceremonies and calligraphy to chopsticks games, were well received at the Universally Manchester Festival, Manchester Museum, Manchester Central Library, Macclesfield Silk Museum, and in local schools and businesses.



TEACHING, TRAINING & TESTING

The Institute offered a range of Mandarin courses for adult learners. Enrolments rose by 14%, from 274 in 2024 to 313 in 2025. We also delivered extracurricular Mandarin courses at Stockport Grammar School, Rochdale Sixth Form College, Co-op Academy Belle Vue, Eden Girls' Leadership Academy, Manchester, and New Vision Education. Across these schools and the three Confucius Classrooms, 760 pupils studied Mandarin. We held one HSK examination session in May, with 17 candidates.

A four-week induction programme in September prepared teachers from Beijing Normal University (BNU) for their one-year placements at the Institute. They also completed the mandatory training for new University of Manchester staff. We held monthly teaching seminars to exchange teaching practices and discuss challenges encountered in the classroom. We also held discussions with the British Chinese Language Teaching Society (BCLTS) and BNU about co-hosting the Society's annual conference in 2026.



CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

Alongside celebrations of Chinese festivals, from Chinese New Year to the Dragon Boat Festival, public talks at Manchester Central Library and concerts at the Martin Harris Centre, two projects placed environmental sustainability at the centre of our cultural programme: Seeds of Hope and Action and Real Contentment: a river of hope.

The Seeds of Hope and Action exhibition ran from 20 March to 30 April 2025. Its 24 panels examined climate change and its effects on nature and human communities. A panel discussion entitled ‘Seeds of Hope: Advancing Climate and Environmental Action’ brought together policymakers, academics and activists to discuss the challenges of environmental action. Related activities included a tree-planting day in the Peak District National Park, vegetarian lunches at a Chinese community centre and recycling workshops in which discarded materials were turned into usable objects. These activities sought to raise awareness of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly among international students, and to encourage practical action.



Real Contentment was another project that brought questions of nature and ecology into cultural exchange between Manchester and Nanjing. We supported Manchester City of Literature in securing British Council funding for six artists, three from each city, to collaborate on poetry, visual art and theatre. Their work was presented in Manchester in June. The exchange also led to plans for Hydrolysis, a 2026 student mobility programme involving University of Manchester students and graduates and Southeast University in Nanjing.



FINANCE

2025 Income and Expenditure Unit: US$

Income	675,066
University of Manchester funding	458,410
Tuition Fees	85,926
Beijing Normal University funding	60,362
Balance brought forward from 2024	70,368
Expenditure	641,522
Staffing	268,165
Activities	80,817
Administration	302,540
Balance carried forward to 2026	33,544