The Confucius Institute at the University of Glasgow was opened by Scotland’s First Minister, MSP Alex Salmond in October 2011. It is a partnership with Nankai University in Tianjin and supported by Hanban. It builds on long-standing research collaborations between the two universities and is strongly founded on research on China across the University of Glasgow in the social sciences, arts, and business, in particular through the activities of the Scottish Centre for China Research.

The overarching aim of the Confucius Institute at the University is to promote understanding of contemporary China. Its specific goals are to increase the numbers of people in Scotland learning the Chinese language, to organise a wide range of public events, and to work with schools, cultural organisations and businesses to foster engagement with China.

The Confucius Institute at the University of Glasgow promotes Chinese language and culture in five ways:

**Chinese Language**
- Language classes for the general public -- introductory to more advanced levels
- Tailored language for business
- Tailored individual language tutoring on request

**Cultural events**
- Events based on key Chinese traditional festivals
- Cinema screenings and photography exhibitions
- Calligraphy demonstrations and classes

**Support for Schools**
- Encouraging learning of Chinese language and about China in schools
- Helping develop the curriculum on contemporary China in schools
- Training teachers

**Promoting research-led understanding**
- Lectures, seminars and workshops on current issues in China: economy, politics, society, culture and arts
- Supporting and promoting research links between University of Glasgow and partners in China

**Promoting business engagement with China**
- Seminars, workshops and information events for SMEs
- Tailored workshops on Chinese business culture
- Supporting exchange visits
Chinese language

In early 2013, the Confucius Institute welcomed its second language teacher, Dr Lei Liang, from Nankai University. He started teaching not long after he arrived in Glasgow, and enabled us to deliver 19 classes in 2013 (14 classes in 2012) with 169 students (122 in 2012), the growth rate of number of students is 38.5%.

January – March 2013: five classes, 37 students
April – June 2013: six classes, 39 students
August 2013: intensive classes, 2 students
October – November 2013: six classes, 61 students
January – December 2013: Private one-to-one classes: 360 hours, 30 students

Hanban UK has encouraged all Confucius Institutes to increase the number of candidates for Chinese proficiency tests (namely HSK, HSKK, YCT and BCT). We have done extremely well in 2013 – we have held 10 HSK tests and two HSKK (HSKK oral tests) tests. On 23 March the Confucius Institute organised its first YCT exam. Two young girls sat the exam and both did very well. By the end of November 2013 we have had 32 candidates for HSK tests and 3 candidates for HSKK tests, the total number of candidates in 2013 is 37, it is huge increase from 2 in 2012.

In November 2013, we sent our first candidate to the ‘Jiangsu Cup’ Chinese Speech Contest. Under the supervision of Dr Lei Liang, our contestant Veronica Storino went through to the final competition at intermediate level and won 3rd prize.

Cultural events and activities

After a full year of operation, the Confucius Institute has developed an annual schedule of cultural events and activities. In 2013, we celebrated several important Chinese festivals with major cultural events: Chinese New Year (250 participants), Dragon Boat Festival (200 participants) and Mid-Autumn Festival (190 participants). Mr Li Ruiyou, the Consul General at the Chinese Consulate General Edinburgh, Professor Andrea Nolan, Senior Vice-Principal, and Professor Anne Anderson, Vice-Principal and the head of the College of Social Sciences at the University of Glasgow led the Chinese New Year’s celebration, where everyone enjoyed live traditional Chinese music on Chinese dulcimer performed by a students and singing by a Children’s Choir, as well as Scottish music played by Hillhead High School Ceilidh Band. Our combination of Chinese and Scottish culture – with ion dancing and bagpipes – attracted much media attention. Consul General Mr Li and Senior Vice Principal Professor Nolan delivered opening speeches and also drew the prizes for the lucky winners. At guests enjoyed Chinese dumplings and other cultural activities including paper cutting, Chinese painting and calligraphy.

On 7 February, the Confucius Institute offered a lunchtime concert in association with the University Music Department, where 170 guests enjoyed traditional Chinese music and singing. The performers entertained the audience with music on Chinese flute, dulcimer and cymbal flute, and stories behind each piece of music. The famous singer Madame Fong Liu sang a few Chinese folk songs, some of which are very popular in China.

To make our cultural events interesting, we often offer the audience the opportunity for ‘hands-on’ experience. For example, at the Dragon Boat Festival celebration evening we offered guests the opportunities to make sticky rice dumplings or ‘Zong Zi’, to create their own five-colour thread bracelets and construct paper dragons, as well as to paint boiled eggs. The activities were very popular, especially amongst the younger children.

At our Mid-Autumn Festival celebration, the audience learned about the history and myths behind the festival, enjoyed traditional Chinese music and a poem associated with it, and had the opportunity to taste a range of Chinese teas and delicious moon cakes.

The Confucius Institute also provided sponsorship to enable Ricefield Chinese Arts and Cultural Centre to deliver a photography exhibition ‘Remote Places, Close Spaces’ at Street Level Photoworks in Glasgow. The exhibition ran from 8 February to 31 March. For this exhibition, Mr Malcolm Dickson, the Director of Street Level Photoworks chose 3 young artists from Three Shadows Photography Art Centre in Beijing to provide unique perspectives on trends in contemporary Chinese photography. Two of these artists (Zhang Kechun & Zhang Jìn) travel to remote outlying areas of China to make connections with traditional Chinese history through mundane surroundings and a culturally significant river and route. In contrast, Ren Hang’s work is less interested in history, tradition or even the question of being Chinese. He presents a bizarre, glossy, sexy, and vapid vision of the private concerns of Chinese youth which is humorous and at the same time absurd. This exhibition attracted 2,036 visitors during its seven weeks.

The Confucius Institute is always looking for opportunities to expand its activities, especially to work with the city and communities of Glasgow. This year we were delighted to be able to work with the National Theatre of Scotland. Specially commissioned by the National Theatre of Scotland and Oran Mor in partnership with the National Theatre of China, three world premières by contemporary Chinese playwrights were brought to Glasgow: ‘Secrets’ (written by Lin Weiran, adapted by Rona Munro, and directed by Graeme Malie), ‘Thieves and Boy’ (written by Hao Jingfang, adapted and directed by Davey Anderson) and ‘Fox Attack’ (written by Xu Nuo, adapted by Catherine Grosvenor, and directed by Amanda Gaughan). We organised a post-show workshop of ‘New play writing in Scotland and China – cross cultural engagement in theatre’ at the Confucius Institute, where art students and members from general public had the opportunity to meet the Directors from the theatre and discuss the plays.

On 11 December, we sponsored Glasgow Refugee, Asylum and Migration Network (GRAMNet) to offer a free screening of Pieter van der Houwen’s work ‘The Africa-China Connection’ at the Centre for Contemporary Arts in Glasgow with 88 guests. The Africa-China Connection follows a group of Nigerian immigrants in the Chinese metropolis Guangzhou. This community is at the vanguard of an important trend that will determine the economic and political development in the first half of the 21st century: the flow of migrants from low-wage countries is shifting from the old continent Europe to the new economies in Asia. While Europe is slowly becoming a fortress and rapidly ageing, African migrants are going east. According to experts this will have disastrous consequences for the European economy and hence the future of its citizens. The film portrays the everyday lives of these ‘new fortune-seekers’ in China and analyses the significance of this development – with philosopher and political scientist Achille Mbembe, and Ian Goldin, former vice-president of the World Bank, advisor to Nelson Mandela, and currently professor of Globalization and Development at Oxford University. Their analysis shows that Europe should open its borders as soon as possible if it wants to keep pace with developments in the coming century. The Director, Pieter van der Houwen, gave a talk about the film and answered questions from the audience.
The Confucius Institute works closely with the Scottish Centre for China Research to promote research-led understanding of China. On 31 January, Professor Xiaolan Fu from The University of Oxford provided a seminar on ‘Multi-dimensional Complementarities and the Growth Impact of Direct Investment from China on Host Countries’. On 8 March, Dr Xiangqun Chang from The London School of Economics offered a seminar on ‘How a Chinese community is lost in London: an analysis with Ishiyan-wanglia Model’. Both were well received. On 20 May, we delivered the second China lecture ‘An Irishman and the First Chinese Books in London’. We were honoured to have Dr Frances Wood, curator of Chinese collections at the British Library as the key speaker. Dr. Wood is a historian known for her writings on Chinese history. She has long been associated with the International Dunhuang Project and was editor of the Transactions of the Oriental Ceramic Society for more than ten years. Dr Wood is currently researching the history of the Chinese collections in all departments of the British Library as well as continuing her involvement in research on: Marco Polo; Treaty Port residents; the First Emperor of China and Chinese historiography.

On 21 November, Professor Su Hao from China Foreign Affairs University did a seminar on ‘China’s Geopolitical Logic and its Position in Asia’. In association with Adam Smith Business School at the University of Glasgow and the Scottish Institute for Research in Economics (SIRE), the Confucius Institute co-hosted a major international workshop on ‘Globalisation of Chinese Industrial Sector: Productivity, Trade and Finance’ on 2-3 September, organised by Dr Sai Ding. Speakers included Dr Daniel Yi Xu (Duke University), Dr Zhihong Yu (University of Nottingham), Professor Richard Harris (Durham University), Professor Jun Gai (Boston College), Dr Miaoju Yu (Peking University), Dr Mirko Draca (University of Warwick), Dr Puyang Sun (Nankai University) and Professor Johannes Van Biesebroeck (University of Leuven). Professor Anne Anderson, the Vice-Principal and head of the College of Social Sciences, and Professor Jane Duckett, Director of the Confucius Institute, gave opening marks to the guests.

Lectures, workshops and seminars

Exchanges and scholarships

Following last year’s success in securing three places for our students under Chinese Government Scholarship programme, the Confucius Institute recommended another two students to study in China under the Chinese Government Scholarship programme. We also secured four places for students to study in China under the Confucius Institute Scholarship scheme. These scholarship programmes have helped to improve student mobility and learning experience. These students out of these six are studying at Nankai University, our Institute’s partner in Tianjin, and so these exchanges are helping to build the University of Glasgow’s relationship with Nankai.

Exchange scholarships give life-changing opportunities to our students, who otherwise might not be able to have the chance to learn Chinese or study in China. As Naomi Porter, a former Glasgow student studying at Harbin University from September 2012 to July 2013 as put it:

‘Had it not been for Glasgow University’s Confucius Institute, it is likely that I would not even have considered the possibility of applying for a scholarship to study in China. I received their email last year advertising one year scholarships at Harbin Normal University. I was intrigued, and researched the city before applying – sometimes called the City of Ice, it was perfect for me as a recent graduate of a joint honours Russian degree, as the city has a large Russian community (particularly at the city’s universities). I decided to apply, and they offered to help at every stage of the application, which made visa organisation and preparation for the year ahead much less daunting.

Once I arrived, I found that the courses were extremely intensive, requiring a considerable amount of self-study, but living in the culture and hearing, speaking and reading Chinese everywhere, day and night, all contributed to the richness of the learning experience. Having begun the year with absolutely no Chinese language ability, I left with an HSK level four – one level below that required to complete a degree at a Chinese university. I am now considering returning to China as an option for my master’s qualification in linguistics, and the Confucius Institute has once again offered to support and assist me with my application.

During my time in Harbin, two excursions were offered by the university exclusively to Confucius scholarship students – one to Beijing, in the springtime, and one in winter, to the Shuangfeng “Snow Village”, a wood farm in the mountains of Heilongjiang. I took many other opportunities to travel during holidays, visiting places I might otherwise never have been. I am considering returning to China as an option for my master’s qualification in linguistics, and the Confucius Institute has once again offered to support and assist me with my application. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been given the opportunity to live and study in China, and I am immensely grateful for all that the Confucius Institute did to make it possible. It is no exaggeration to describe this as a truly life changing experience.

Tianjin is giving me a very good impression of China. I have been frequenting many of the nearby places to eat and talking (or trying to) with the locals. I have been to Beijing for a weekend (I went to Three Shadows Photography!) and during the national holiday went to see a friend in Harbin. I really like China and Tianjin.

I can comfortably see a home here for a few years.

Max Horberry – former student of the University of Glasgow, he is now studying at Nankai University on the Confucius Institute scholarship

Images courtesy of Max Horberry except the Summer Palace (far left upper).
Support for Schools

The Confucius Institute is passionate about supporting schools and promoting Chinese language and culture to the younger generations. This year we worked with schools in partnership with the Confucius Institute for Scotland’s Schools (CISS) and the National Theatre of Scotland. When working on the ‘New plays from China’ project with the National Theatre of Scotland, we came across another project ‘Dragon’ which is a co-production with Vox Motus and Tianjin People’s Art Theatre from China. Tianjin is the city where our partner university Nankai University is located and we are keen to promote the city to a wider community in Scotland. The play itself is an extraordinary visual story told without words, featuring puppetry, illusion and original music.

We liaised with the National Theatre of Scotland and the Confucius Institute for Scotland Schools to deliver a premier show on 11 October 2013 for 350 school teachers and pupils from 12 Confucius Institute classrooms across Scotland and we also offered sponsorship on transport.

Here’s what some pupils from Irvine Royal Academy had to say about the performance.

‘It was amazing! The dragons were so beautiful. I loved the full show and would love to go to China now!’
Melanie Jones, S1

Pupils from P7 at Wallacestone Primary School said:
‘It was really clever the way they made the dragons move.’
Young people at Hamilton Universal Connections said:
‘Loved the dragons, they’re my thing!’
‘We had a talk on the way home about the play; it was funny how we all had different views on it.’
‘It was magic, nothing like what I imagined.’

We think it is important that Scottish schools are fully supported to help young people understand China. This not only helps produce well rounded students with a good understanding of the world around them, it also helps encourage them to learn the Chinese language. In 2013 together with the Confucius Institute for Scotland’s Schools we organised a series of workshops with school teachers from across Scotland aimed at developing new curriculum materials.

We liaised with the National Theatre of Scotland and the Confucius Institute for Scotland’s Schools to deliver a premier show on 11 October 2013 for 350 school teachers and pupils from 12 Confucius Institute classrooms across Scotland and we also offered sponsorship on transport.

Here’s what some pupils from Irvine Royal Academy had to say about the performance.

‘It was really good because it taught us a lot about modern Chinese theatre shows.’
Skye, S1

‘It was really good because it taught us a lot about modern Chinese theatre shows.’

Support for business engagement with China

One area in which the Confucius Institute is endeavouring to build its activity is in support for businesses – especially SMEs – across Scotland. To take this forward in April we offered a trial training course on Chinese business etiquette to members of staff at the University of Glasgow. The workshop was so popular that we repeated it in June. We are now in discussion with the China Britain Business Council (CBBc) Scotland to make this training available beyond the campus, initially to CBBc members and then to any other businesses who require it.

Visits and university exchanges

On 25 June 2013, Nankai University conferred a Guest Professorship to Professor Jane Duckett, the Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Glasgow. The President of Nankai University, Professor Gong Ke, presented the professorship to Professor Duckett at a ceremony organised by the Vice-President, Professor Zhu Guangfei.

After the ceremony Professor Duckett gave a lecture on Trends in Western Chinese Studies Research, which was well received by a wide range of academics and students at Nankai. Professor Gong said Nankai is honoured to have Professor Duckett as a Guest professor, Professor Duckett responded that she was delighted to visit Nankai University and to see many old friends again, and to be honoured by the professorship. She had studied at Nankai University for a year in the early 1990s as part of her doctoral studies.

In August we welcomed Professor Guan Naijia, the Vice-President of Nankai University, to our campus. Professor Guan is the Vice Chair of the Institute’s Board of Advisors, and was visiting the University of Glasgow and the Confucius Institute for the first time. She expressed a keen interest in working more closely with the University of Glasgow to build research and teaching partnerships across the disciplines.

The Confucius Institute supports staff across all the University of Glasgow’s Colleges, this year for example helping to host delegations from the South West University of Finance and Economics, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales in China and Sun Yat-Sen University, as well as translating a number of documents and business cards. Through all this work, the Confucius Institute is integrating its activities in the service of the University of Glasgow’s partnerships in China.
### Summary of key activities in 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Number of participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 January</td>
<td>Workshop ‘looking at China and the Curriculum’</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 January</td>
<td>Seminar ‘Multi-dimensional Complementarities and the Growth Impact of Direct Investment from China on Host Countries’</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 February</td>
<td>Chinese New Year reception at the Chinese Consulate General, Edinburgh</td>
<td>2 from CI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 February</td>
<td>Lunch time concert on Chinese music and songs</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 February</td>
<td>Chinese New Year celebrations</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 February – 31 March</td>
<td>‘Remote Places, Close Spaces’ photography exhibition at Street Level Photoworks</td>
<td>2,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 February</td>
<td>Launch of ‘Takeaway China’</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 February</td>
<td>Talk on ‘Remote Places, Close Spaces’ exhibition at Street Level Photoworks</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>Seminar ‘How a Chinese community is lost in London: an analysis with lishang-wanglai Model’</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 March</td>
<td>Schools workshop to developing non-teaching material</td>
<td>11 from schools, 3 from CI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>Chinese Bridge Competition in London</td>
<td>2 from CI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 April</td>
<td>Workshop on Chinese Business Etiquette</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 May</td>
<td>Lecture ‘An Irishman and the First Chinese Books in London’ by Dr Frances Wood from British Library</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 May</td>
<td>Post-show talk ‘New play writing in Scotland and China – cross cultural engagement in theatre’</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 June</td>
<td>Dragon Boat Festival celebration</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 June</td>
<td>Workshop on Chinese Business Etiquette</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 June</td>
<td>Lecture ‘Trends in Western Chinese Studies Research’ at Nankai University by Professor Jane Duckett</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 August</td>
<td>Visit by Professor Guan Naijia, Vice President of Nankai University and her colleagues</td>
<td>3 from Nankai, 6 from CI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 – 3 September</td>
<td>International workshop ‘Globalisation of Chinese Industrial Sector: Productivity, Trade and Finance’</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 September</td>
<td>Study Abroad Talk to promote the CI Scholarship scheme</td>
<td>1 from CI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 – 13 September</td>
<td>European Confucius Institute Conference</td>
<td>1 from CI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 September</td>
<td>Reception for National Day at the Chinese Consulate General, Edinburgh</td>
<td>1 from CI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 – 18 September</td>
<td>Fresher’s Week</td>
<td>8000-9000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 September</td>
<td>Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 October</td>
<td>Premier show ‘Dragon’ for school pupils</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 October</td>
<td>Study Abroad Fair to promote CI scholarship</td>
<td>2 from CI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 October</td>
<td>Reception of ‘Dragon’ show</td>
<td>2 from CI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 November</td>
<td>China’s Geopolitical Logic and its Position in Asia</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 – 8 December</td>
<td>Confucius Institutes Conference in Beijing</td>
<td>1 from University of Glasgow, 3 from CI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>