



University of
Nottingham
Nottingham Confucius Institute



Confucius Institute Newsletter Feb & Mar 2026

In this newsletter we will focus on:



- Mandarin class in this semester
- New Mandarin Teacher for this semester
- HSK/HSKK test in March and following months
- Flashback of Chinese Cultural Events
 - Chinese New Year celebration
 - Lantern Festival Celebration
 - Chinese Painting Exhibition in UoN and Nottingham Central Library
 - International Students Explore Spring and Intangible Cultural Heritage in Qinshan Village
- Upcoming events
 - HSK/HSKK test
 - Chinese Night

Teaching Events



Mandarin Class in this Semester

2nd Mar saw the first Mandarin class for this semester. 166 learners enrolled in the Mandarin class including 149 evening group class. This semester's evening group Mandarin class would last for 8 weeks. We hope all the learners would have a fruitful and progressive semester.







Welcome New Mandarin Teacher: Ms. Savannah Shi

Ms. Savannah Shi joined the NCI as a fixed term new teacher. She would cover Beginner 1 and Beginner 2 classes. Ms. Shi has rich experience in teaching Mandarin. Before she joins UNNC, she received master's degree in teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language in Macau University of Science and Technology. She also had over 3 years overseas teaching experience. Please join us to welcome Ms. Savannah Shi and wish her a very happy and unforgettable time in UNNC.





HSK/HSKK Test

26 candidates took part in the HSK/HSKK Test on 21st Mar. In this semester, there would be another two tests on 16 May, and 28 Jun. The initially arranged HSK test on 11th Apr is cancelled due to the conflict with university Open Day. If you are planning for an HSK/HSKK test, please register via [中文考试服务网](#) or visit our office Trent 430 for more information.



Chinese Cultural Events



Living in China Spring Festival Celebration

6th Feb, NCI cooperated with DCL held a Spring Festival Celebration for international staff and students who stay in campus during the Spring Festival period. Many attractive activities were introduced in the event, including Chinese traditional snack making, dough modelling, woven bracelet, Yue opera and so on. The participants have had a very pleasant experience on the event.











Lantern Festival Celebration

On 27th February, over 100 UNNC staff and their families gathered at the Riverside Restaurant, LA Hotel, for a vibrant Lantern Festival celebration. Co-organized by the Confucius Institute and the HR Office, the event marked the Yuan Xiao Festival, which symbolizes happiness, harmony, and reunion as it welcomes the first full moon of the lunar year.

Prof. Umesh Sharma, Vice Provost for People and Culture, opened the festivities with a warm welcome speech to all participants. Attendees enjoyed traditional lantern riddles and a fun quiz exploring the customs and origins of the festival. The buffet lunch, featuring an array of delicious dishes, encouraged guests to connect and share the spirit of the occasion.

The event concluded with heartfelt wishes for peace and happiness in the year ahead, leaving everyone eagerly anticipating next year's festivities.













[Chinese Painting Exhibition in Nottingham](#)

From January 20 to February 27, 2026, the Confucius Institutes of two campuses successfully hosted the Li Qingyu Chinese Painting Exhibition. Mr. Li Qingyu, currently a National First-Class Artist and a council member of the Chinese Calligraphers and Painters Association, has dedicated over sixty years to the field of Chinese painting and achieved remarkable artistic accomplishments. The exhibition was held at both Nottingham Central Library and the University of Nottingham's Lakeside Arts, featuring a total of 25 exquisite pieces. The exhibited works cover a diverse range of subjects, including Mr. Li's especially masterful freehand paintings of elegant ladies, as well as paintings of galloping horses, landscapes, flowers and rocks, ancient trees, and majestic eagles. The spirited paintings of galloping horses, in particular, complemented the theme of the 2026 Year of the Horse Spring Festival, conveying a spirit of vigor, freedom, and heroic resolve.



On the evening of February 26th, a celebratory reception for the Li Qingyu Art Exhibition was hosted at the DH Lawrence Pavilion. At the event, the artist himself shared the inspirations behind his creations and gave a live painting demonstration. The audience had the opportunity to observe up close the process of Chinese ink flowing and taking shape on rice paper, gaining a profound appreciation for the unique charm of this traditional art. Mr. Li Qingyu painted and presented his new works to several guests who requested them, creating a warm and vibrant atmosphere.







On February 27th, Ms. Zhou Wei, Minister Counsellor for Education at the Chinese Embassy in the UK; Professor Nigel Mongan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University of Nottingham; Professor Jon Garibaldi, Provost of the University of Nottingham Ningbo China; Professor David Park, Dean of the Nottingham University Business School; Professor Chen Ying, Chinese Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Nottingham; Mr. Jason Feehily, Chief Research Safety Officer at the University of Nottingham; Mr. James Parkinson, CEO of Lakeside Arts; along with heads from the university's admissions, global engagement, and public affairs departments,

visited the exhibition and posed for a group photo with the artist, Mr. Li Qingyu. The guests spoke highly of the exhibition's significant role in promoting Sino-British cultural exchange and deepening inter-university collaboration.



[International Students Explore Spring and Intangible Cultural Heritage in Qinshan Village](#)

29th Mar, the spring outing activity themed "Seeking Spring in Qinshan · Embracing the Charm of Intangible Cultural Heritage" was held in Qinshan Village, Zhenhai District. The Nottingham Confucius Institute China Ningbo Branch led 28 international students from 7 countries to the countryside, where they closely experienced the unique allure of Chinese intangible cultural heritage and the local customs of eastern Zhejiang's rural areas through natural exploration and hands-on activities.

Their first stop was the Wenxi History and Culture Museum, where they learned about the history of the ancient Wenxi Village, the story of the Yushan Site and the rural revitalization process of the local area through the exhibits and explanations, gaining a direct understanding of the cultural heritage of eastern Zhejiang's countryside.



Afterwards, they hiked along the lakeside trail of Qinshan Reservoir, admiring the lake scenery and bamboo forests, enjoying the peaceful and comfortable spring scenery of the countryside to the fullest. Many international students took out their mobile phones to record the beautiful scenery along the way and marveled at the natural and cultural beauty of Qinshan Village.



In the afternoon, the international students were divided into groups to experience special activities: The She ethnic group's "Dragon Meets Phoenix". The interaction of throwing and catching silk balls let everyone feel the joy of She ethnic customs.



The intangible cultural heritage activity of "Rocking the Pot" was extremely popular, with international students trying to coordinate their physical strength to rock the iron pot, and laughter and cheers filling the air.





At the end of the activity, the experience of intangible cultural heritage tie-dyeing became the highlight. Under the guidance of professional teachers, the international students learned skills such as folding, binding and dyeing cloth, and gave full play to their creativity to make unique blue-and-white pattern handiworks of their own. When their hand-made tie-dye works took shape, everyone could hardly hide their joy and took photos one after another.





This one-day trip to Qinshan Village allowed international students to deepen their understanding of Chinese traditional culture and rural development through immersive experience. They all said that it was a rewarding cultural experience trip, where they not only made new friends, but also felt the unique charm of Chinese traditional culture.



Upcoming Events



HSK/HSKK Test

16 May, and 28 Jun

PB330 and PB331

Click [here](#) to register



Chinese Night

7:00 – 8:30pm 17th Apr @ D. H. Lawrence Auditorium

This is an event for our international staff and students especially the Mandarin learners to showcase their Chinese talent. You are highly welcome to appreciate this performance and show your support to the performers.

All are welcome.

Please click [here](#) to reserve a seat

For student audience who needs SPDPO credits please follow the SPDPO registration channel.



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