



University of
Nottingham
Nottingham Confucius Institute



Confucius Institute Newsletter Sep 2026

In this newsletter we will focus on:



- Mandarin class in this semester
- Switching to the new HSK textbook (HSK 3.0)
- HSK/HSKK Test Dates and Transition to HSK 3.0 Test
- Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration
- Upcoming events
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Teaching Events



Autumn Semester Mandarin Classes Now Open for Registration

Registration is now open for the Mandarin classes this autumn semester.

The **group evening classes** are free of charge for all **UNNC students, staff, and staff family members**. Each course consists of **2-hour sessions, held twice a week for 8 weeks**, with a maximum capacity of **20 students per class**. The classes will begin on **5 October**.

A limited number of places are also available for **private lessons**.

For registration for either course type, please visit **Trent 430**.





Switching to the new HSK textbook (HSK 3.0)

Starting this semester, our Mandarin program will use the new-version HSK textbook series. The new books are designed to echo the updated criteria of the reformed HSK (汉语水平考试) and to help you prepare more effectively for the current test format.

What's different and why it matters

- Updated alignment with the new HSK criteria: vocabulary, task types, and scoring focus have all been revised to match the latest exam specifications.
- Communicative, task-based approach: lessons emphasize real-life use of Chinese—speaking, listening, reading, and writing—rather than only memorizing lists.
- Richer cultural and contextual content: cultural notes and situational dialogues help you use Chinese naturally.
- Digital resources: online practice, audio recordings, and other materials are included to support independent study.

Who this affects

- All learners across levels will move to the new series. Your teacher will let you know the exact book and level for your class.

Support for learners

- Teachers have received training on the new materials and will guide you through the changes.
- If you have questions about materials, placement, or exam preparation, please feel free to contact us.

We're excited about this update—these textbooks are better matched to the reformed HSK and will give you more practical, exam-relevant practice. Good luck this semester and happy studying!

HSK/HSKK Test Dates and Transition to HSK 3.0 Test

The Confucius Institute will offer two HSK/HSKK tests during the autumn semester, on **17th Oct 2026** and **7th Nov 2026**. Both examinations will be conducted according to the **current HSK syllabus**.

From **December 2026**, the current syllabus will be replaced by the **HSK 3.0 syllabus**. Due to a scheduling clash with the **CET-4 and CET-6 examinations**, the Confucius Institute will begin offering HSK 3.0 examinations from **January 2027**.

About HSK 3.0

The HSK, or Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi, is a national standardised examination that assesses the ability of learners of Chinese as a second language to use Chinese for communication in everyday life, study and professional contexts.

Under HSK 3.0, the proficiency descriptions are as follows:

- **HSK Level 1:** Can communicate simply in everyday situations in Chinese.
- **HSK Level 2:** Can communicate at a basic level in everyday, study and work situations.
- **HSK Level 3:** Can communicate effectively in everyday, study and work situations.
- **HSK Level 4:** Can communicate completely and coherently in everyday, study and work situations.
- **HSK Level 5:** Can communicate accurately and appropriately in work and academic situations.

- **HSK Level 6:** Can communicate richly and fluently in workplace, academic and general professional situations.
- **HSK Level 7:** Can communicate in a standardised and fluent manner in workplace, general professional and general academic situations.
- **HSK Level 8:** Can communicate appropriately and in depth in workplace, general professional and general academic situations.
- **HSK Level 9:** Can communicate precisely and in depth across a wide range of professional, occupational and academic contexts.

Further information about registration, examination arrangements and preparation resources could be found in [中文考试服务网](#). Learners who plan to take an HSK test are encouraged to check the syllabus applicable to their chosen examination date and prepare accordingly.



Chinese Cultural Events



Confucius Institute and Human Resources Department Host Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration

On 17 September, the Confucius Institute and the Human Resources Department jointly organized a Mid-Autumn Festival celebration, welcoming over 120 staff members and their families. The event aimed to foster community spirit and cultural exchange within the university.

Dean of NUBS China, Prof. Kok Wei Khong, delivered a warm welcome speech highlighting the importance of tradition, community, and staff wellbeing. Attendees enjoyed a programme of activities designed to encourage connection across departments and generations, including a hands-on mooncake-making session that proved popular with participants of all ages.

The event provided a relaxed and festive opportunity for colleagues and families to meet, share stories, and celebrate a traditional Chinese festival together. Organizers would like to thank all who participated and helped make the evening a success.

We wish everyone a joyful and peaceful Mid-Autumn Festival. 中秋快乐。







Upcoming Events



UNNC CI 10th Anniversary on 16th Oct

- 09:30 – 12:00 Keynote speech @NICC
- 13:30 – 15:15 Parallel Workshops @Trent 236, 209 & IAMET 312
- 19:30 – 21:00 Public Lecture @ Siyuan Auditorium

More details will be released on portal. All of you are welcome to participate in.

HSK tests



1 - 9.00am—5.00pm Saturday 17th Oct and 7th Nov @PB330 & 331

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