



University of
Nottingham
Nottingham Confucius Institute



Confucius Institute Newsletter Oct 2026

In this newsletter we will focus on:



- Mandarin class in this semester
- HSK/HSKK Test
- UNNC CI 10th Anniversary
- Upcoming events
 - Conference
 - HSK/HSKK test

Teaching Events



Mandarin Classes See Record Enrolment This Semester

This semester's Mandarin language classes officially began on 5 October, attracting a record number of participants from across the university community.

A total of 196 staff and students enrolled in the free evening group Mandarin classes, while a further 10 learners joined private classes. The total enrolment marks a new record for the programme, reflecting the growing interest in Mandarin learning and Chinese culture among staff and students.

The free evening group classes provide an accessible opportunity for learners at different levels to develop their Mandarin communication skills in a supportive and engaging environment. Meanwhile, the private classes offer more personalised learning support for participants with specific study goals or scheduling needs.

The strong enrolment this semester demonstrates the increasing enthusiasm for language learning on campus and highlights the continuing role of Mandarin classes in promoting intercultural understanding and communication. Through these courses, participants will not only improve their language skills, but also gain deeper insight into Chinese culture and everyday communication.

With a record number of learners joining this semester, the Mandarin programme continues to build a vibrant learning community and create meaningful connections through language.





35 Candidates Sit the HSK/HSKK Test

Nottingham Confucius Institute China Ningbo Branch held its first HSK/HSKK test of the semester on 17 October, with 35 candidates sitting the Chinese proficiency examinations.

The test was one of the final sessions to be conducted under the current HSK textbook syllabus. The last HSK test based on the current syllabus will take place on 7 November, before the new HSK 3.0 standards are introduced from December.

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



Bridging Languages, Embracing a Shared Tomorrow — The 10th-Anniversary Celebration of Nottingham Confucius Institute China Ningbo Branch

The Nottingham Confucius Institute China Ningbo Branch marked its 10th anniversary with a commemorative conference held on Friday, 16 October 2026 at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China. Under the theme “语言为桥 共赴未来” / “Bridging Languages, Journey to the Future,” the event brought together scholars, educators, students and guests to review a

decade of work in international Chinese-language education and cultural exchange, while looking ahead to new opportunities for dialogue, learning and collaboration.

The anniversary programme opened at the New International Conference Centre with registration, a welcome address by Professor Panos Vlachopoulos, Vice Provost for Education and Student Experience, a student-greetings video showcase, and a presentation on the development of the Confucius Institute. The morning session also included three keynote speeches. Professor Wu Zhongwei of Fudan University spoke on the “integration” of Chinese-language teaching from multiple perspectives, covering pedagogy, textbook design, classroom practice and teacher development. Professor Yao Shujie, Dean of the Li Anmin Institute of Economic Research at Liaoning University and co-founder and inaugural director of the Nottingham Confucius Institute China Ningbo Branch, explored the development of artificial intelligence and major-power competition, with attention to AI’s influence on economic growth, education and global talent competition. Dr. Yang Mei, Chairman of the Qufu Zhusi Cultural Heritage Center, reflected on classical educational theories from China and abroad and their relevance to contemporary educational practice.

In the afternoon, the conference continued with parallel workshops and discussions. Professor Wu Zhongwei led a workshop on Chinese-language teaching; Associate Professor Zhao Yanfeng of Peking University discussed “The Global Significance of Chinese Classics,” highlighting the contemporary value of Confucian and Daoist thought in philosophy, ethics, global governance and international Chinese-language classrooms; and Associate Professor Guo Lan of the University of Nottingham presented “Talking Trees: Learning Actively in Nature—Outdoor Language Learning in Higher Education,” sharing approaches to active learning, cross-cultural exchange and language practice in natural environments.

The anniversary celebration concluded with an evening public lecture by Dr. Yang Mei in Siyuan Auditorium, titled “In Search of Education’s Utopia (Peach Blossom Spring)—Classical Educational Theories from China and Abroad and Contemporary Practice.” The lecture examined how Chinese and Western educational traditions can inform present-day practice, particularly in balancing knowledge acquisition with character development and whole-person education.

As a milestone occasion, the 10th anniversary celebration reflected the Nottingham Confucius Institute China Ningbo Branch’s decade-long commitment to building bridges through language and culture. The event not only reviewed the Institute’s achievements in Chinese-language education and intercultural exchange, but also created a platform for scholars and participants to discuss the future of education, cultural understanding, classical learning, artificial intelligence and global cooperation. Guided by the anniversary message “Decade of Harmony, Embracing a Shared Tomorrow,” the programme emphasized language as a bridge connecting

people, cultures and ideas, and reaffirmed the Institute's continuing role in fostering mutual understanding and shared development.







Upcoming Events



Conference: A Dialogue between Aristotle and Confucius: How Does Virtue Ethics Function in The Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

26th -28th Nov

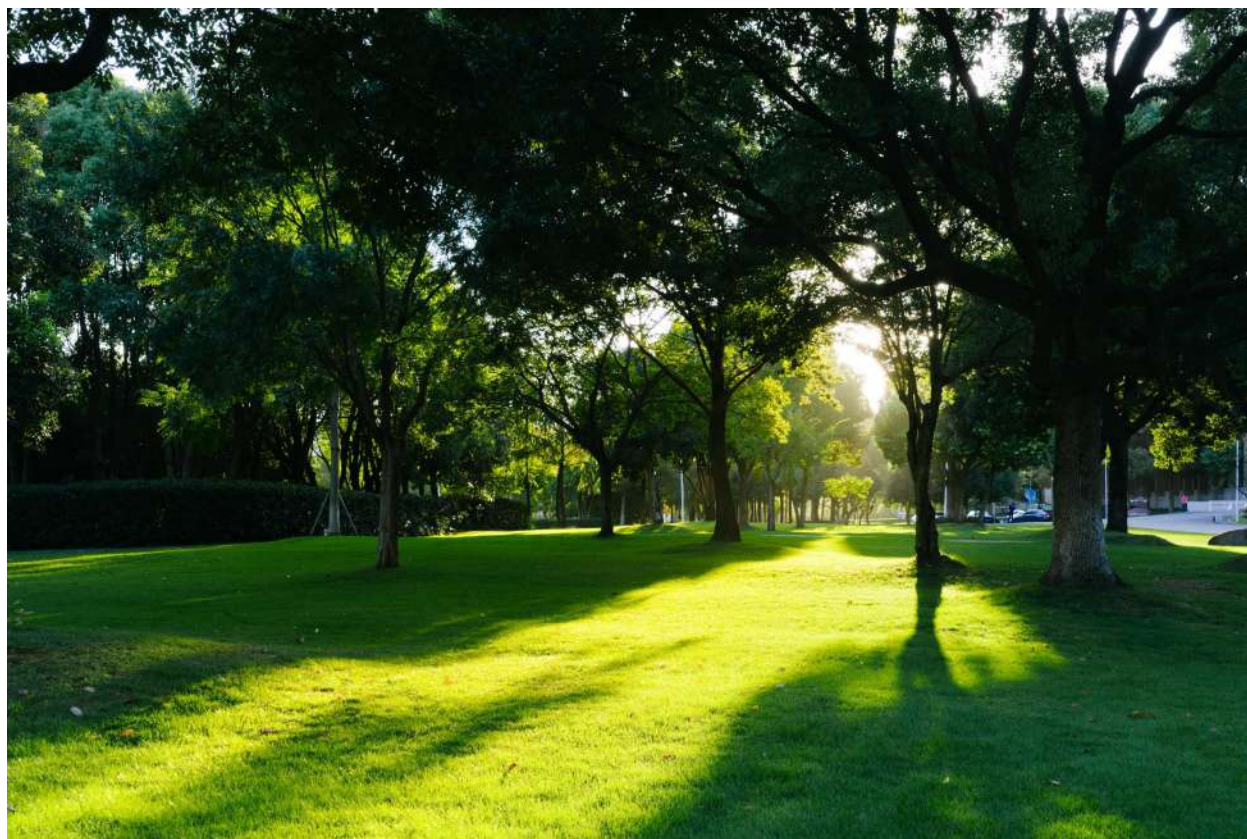


HSK tests



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

Contact us



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