



## FOI 23-25 Confucius Institute Staff

1 message

Foi <foi@abdn.ac.uk>

16 February 2023 at 10:19

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Your request has now been considered under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, 'the Act'. Please find your response below.

**This FOI request relates to the university's Confucius Institute, in particular to the roles at the Confucius Institute for which individuals are recruited in China (if I understand correctly, that is the Chinese language teachers, and the 'Chinese co-director').**

**• Are these university roles? Are the rights and privileges of university staff attached to these roles? Are those who occupy these roles staff of the university? Are these individuals employed by the university? Please share any documentation that answers these questions or otherwise defines the legal status of these roles and those who occupy them.**

Chinese language teachers and the Co-Director are recruited via our partner institution in China. They hold honorary status at the University of Aberdeen. Honorary title holders are not employed by the University of Aberdeen and have no entitlement to remuneration. While in Aberdeen, they have access to some IT facilities (an email account, one-drive, blackboard, printers and library); and like other honorary staff they have a staff ID badge, free Health and Fitness & Aquatics Off-Peak membership; access to chargeable car parking facilities and are eligible to book weddings in the University Chapel.

**• Please state whether the university has received legal advice about the legal status of these roles and those who occupy them.**

The Chinese language teachers and the Co-Director are sponsored and funded by the Centre for Language Education and Cooperation UK (CLEC UK) and not by the University of Aberdeen. We have therefore not sought specific legal advice regarding the legal status of these roles as they are not employed by the University.

In line with UKVI guidance, we ensure that honorary title holders have permission from the Home Office to be in the UK.

Should you be dissatisfied with this response, you have the right under the Act to request a review. A request for review must be made within 40 working days of the date of this reply. It must include your name and address for correspondence and specify the request for information and the grounds for dissatisfaction with the decision. Please send your request for review to our mailbox, foi@abdn.ac.uk. The University will respond to your request for a review within 20 working days of receipt of your request.

If you are unhappy with the outcome of the University's internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months of the date of receipt of the University's review notice. Details on how to make an appeal to the Commissioner are available at [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal). Should you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's decision, you have a right of appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

Kind Regards

Information Governance

University of Aberdeen

[www.abdn.ac.uk](http://www.abdn.ac.uk)

**4<sup>th</sup> in the UK** for Overall Student Satisfaction (NSS 2022)

**13<sup>th</sup> in the UK** (The Guardian University Guide 2023)

**World Top 160** (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022)

**Queen's Anniversary Prize for Further and Higher Education** winner 2017 and 2021



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