



UK Visas
& Immigration



Freedom of Information
Central Correspondence Team
Central Operations
PO Box 3468
Sheffield
S3 8WA

Email:
FOIRequests@homeoffice.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/ukvi

FOI Reference: 74480

27 February 2023

Dear Sir / Madam,

Thank you for your enquiry of 8 February 2023, in which you have requested information in respect of China-UK Mandarin teachers. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Information Requested

My name is [REDACTED] and I would like to make an FOI request. My request relates to visa processing for PRC citizens coming to the UK to work at Confucius Institutes in British universities.

As I understand it, these individuals apply for visas via the Government Authorised Exchange (GAE) route, as part of an Overseas Government Language Programme, as described [here](#). The programme in question is the 'China-UK Mandarin teachers scheme' run by The Centre for Language Education and Cooperation, UK ([see this page](#).)

I hope this provides you with useful context that will help you respond fully to my request.

My FOI request is as follows:

- 1. Is the 'China-UK Mandarin teachers scheme' the only Overseas Government Language Programme?*
- 2. Are the individuals who are given visas by this scheme employed in the UK?*
- 3. If so, does UK employment and equality law apply to this employment?*

Response

1. Is the 'China-UK Mandarin teachers scheme' the only Overseas Government Language Program

There are currently over 40 GAE schemes listed in the Immigration Rules. Schemes are categorised as follows:

- Work experience schemes in a range of sectors including banking, finance, business and education for up to 12 months.
- Research and training schemes offer practical work-based training in science, medicine and academia for up to 24 months.
- Overseas language programmes must be paid for by an overseas government or organisation affiliated to a foreign government and allows stays of up to 24 months.

A full list of schemes can be found in *Appendix Government Authorised Exchange schemes* below: -

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-government-authorised-exchange-schemes>

2. Are the individuals who are given visas by this scheme employed in the UK?

The China-UK Mandarin teachers GAE scheme is an overseas government language programme operated by the Centre for Language Education and Cooperation (CLEC, formerly Hanban UK), and endorsed by the Department for Education (DfE). On behalf of Chinese universities, CLEC enters into partnership agreements with UK universities to establish a Confucius Institute and create secondment opportunities for Chinese lecturers to teach Mandarin in the UK.

Individuals on the China-UK Mandarin teachers scheme are contracted to work at Confucius Institutes at UK universities. The scheme sponsors volunteer and professional Mandarin teachers to undertake placements at Confucius institutes and classrooms in the UK, and at institutions in the UK which are covered by China-UK's teaching exchange programme. It is also used to sponsor co-directors to manage the programme in the UK and undertake some language teaching if needed.

Roles offered under GAE schemes must not amount to filling a vacancy and must be over and above normal staffing requirements.

The following page sets out the duties and responsibilities of UK sponsors:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/workers-and-temporary-workers-guidance-for-sponsors-part-3-sponsor-duties-and-compliance>

3. If so, does UK employment and equality law apply to this employment?

UK employment and equality law applies to employment under GAE. This is set out at C1.31. in part 3 of the sponsor guidance listed above, as well as GA2.12., and GA5.12. of the *Workers and Temporary Workers: guidance for sponsors: sponsor a Government Authorised Exchange Worker* below: -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/workers-and-temporary-workers-guidance-for-sponsors-sponsor-a-government-authorised-exchange-worker>

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk, quoting reference **74480**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

A link to the Home Office Information Rights Privacy Notice can be found in the following link. This explains how we process your personal information: -
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/information-rights-privacy-notice>

Yours sincerely

M Egerton
Central Operations

We value your feedback, please use the link below to access a brief anonymous survey to help us improve our service to you:
<http://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/108105TAZNG>