

### Oxford Brookes University

The Confucius Institute at Oxford Brookes University was founded in 2016 as a partnership with a state-owned publishing company from China, Foreign Language Teaching & Research Press (FLTRP) and Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU).

According to its own website, FLTRP is overseen directly by the Chinese Communist Party Propaganda Department.<sup>1</sup>

A post on the BFSU website gives details of the recruitment process for staff at the Oxford Brookes Confucius Institute.<sup>2</sup> The post states that applicants must fill in the ‘National Application Form for Teachers Going Abroad’ (国家公派出国教师申请表), which is available online.<sup>3</sup> UK-China Transparency has translated and reproduced the form, which demands that applicants:

- Provide details of their “political characteristics” and “ethnicity”
- Promise to abide by the laws of the PRC (while abroad)
- Promise not to have a child whilst working in the UK
- Be evaluated by a Communist Party Committee
- Have their current employer give a reference detailing their:
  - “Political attitude”
  - Ability to comply with CCP *Discipline for Foreign Affairs* (外事纪律) guidelines

The *Discipline* guidelines demand, amongst other things, that individuals “act in strict accordance with the CCP’s policies in all foreign activities” and “strictly implement the request and report system” (the system is referred to as 请示报告制度).<sup>4</sup> In CCP terminology, this refers to the system whereby CCP members pass information to their superiors: it mandates authoritarian practices such as peer surveillance, peer intimidation and informing.<sup>5</sup>

Oxford Brookes University has ignored several Freedom of Information (FOI) requests relating to its Confucius Institute. The University has also refused to release the agreements governing its Institute: both that with the Chinese government agency responsible for Confucius Institutes, and that with BFSU.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fltrp.com/gywm/>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://archive.vn/ZN718>

<sup>3</sup> The ‘National Application form’ can be found here <https://archive.vn/l5FsF>

<sup>4</sup> See Baidu Baike, <https://baike.baidu.com/item/党的外事纪律/9640843>

<sup>5</sup> See, for example, <https://archive.vn/unmso> This CCP announcement from 2019 states that the ‘request and report system’ is “an important way for our Party to maintain political discipline”.