

Bangor University

The Confucius Institute at Bangor University was founded in 2012 as a partnership with China University of Political Science and Law (CUPSL).

A post on the CUPSL website gives details of the recruitment process for staff at the Bangor Confucius Institute.¹ 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.² 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).³ 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.⁴

In response to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request asking about the legal status of staff at the Confucius Institute and whether it has received advice on this matter, Bangor University stated:

“...should we confirm whether or not an individual is employed by the University, this would contravene one of the data protection principles.”

In response to an FOI request asking whether staff at the Confucius Institute or the Institute itself have to obey Chinese law in the UK, or whether Bangor University has signed agreements to this effect, the University stated firmly that staff from the PRC at the University’s Confucius Institute do not have to abide by Chinese law on campus and that the University has signed no agreements to this effect.

An agreement signed in 2020 between CUSPL and Bangor University states that:

“The Confucius Institute at Bangor University, which is a subordinate body of Bangor University, shall serve the purpose of Confucius Institute, operate according to the laws and regulations of the UK”.

¹ <https://archive.vn/SyGIC>

² The ‘National Application form’ can be found here <https://archive.vn/15FsF>

³ See Baidu Baike, <https://baike.baidu.com/item/党的外事纪律/9640843>

⁴ 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”.