

## Glasgow University

The Confucius Institute at Glasgow University was founded in 2011 as a partnership with Nankai University.

Unlike in the case of other universities, UK-China Transparency (UKCT) did not locate a form for the recruitment of Chinese teachers by Nankai for the Glasgow University Confucius Institute. Instead, UKCT found a notice produced by Nankai in 2017 about the recruitment of the Confucius Institute's co-director.<sup>1</sup> We have translated this notice and reproduced it on the UKCT website.

The notice states that, upon the orders of the Chinese government, Nankai University should prioritise the “ideological-political qualities” of candidates, “strictly control the selection of candidates in political terms”, only recommend candidates who are “loyal to the ancestor-land [China]” and who possess “political firmness” and are between 35 and 55 years old. Overall, the Party Committee of the university should lead on the recruitment process.

A form attached to the notice, reproduced and translated by UKCT, further clarifies that applicants must:

- Be CCP members (and provide the date they joined). They must therefore comply with CCP *Discipline for Foreign Affairs* (外事纪律) guidelines
- Be evaluated on their “political performance, ability, integrity and self-discipline” by a local CCP committee
- Provide the details of their family members and their family members’ “political characteristics”
- Be evaluated by their university’s CCP committee

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>2</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>3</sup>

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, Glasgow University stated:

“...the individuals have affiliated member of staff status, but are not employed or paid by the University. They have a University of Glasgow email address and can access its network and library. [...] No legal advice has been received about the legal status of the roles and those who occupy them.”

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 Glasgow has signed agreements to this effect, the University stated:

“The Confucius Institute at the University of Glasgow shall serve the purpose of the Confucius Institute and operate according to the laws and regulations of the UK [sic].”

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<sup>1</sup> <https://archive.vn/IVxrm>

<sup>2</sup> See Baidu Baike, <https://baike.baidu.com/item/党的外事纪律/9640843>

<sup>3</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”.