

Goldsmiths University of London

The Confucius Institute at Goldsmiths University was founded in 2012 as a partnership with Beijing Dance Academy (BDA) and Capital Normal University (CNU).

A post on the CNU website gives details of the recruitment process for staff at the Goldsmiths Confucius Institute.¹ Applicants must:

- “Generally” be between 25 and 55 years old
- Fill in the ‘National Application Form for Teachers Going Abroad’, which has been translated and reproduced by UK-China Transparency. It demands applicants:
 - Promise to abide by the laws of the PRC (while abroad)
 - Promise not to have a child whilst working in the UK
 - 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).² 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.³

In a response to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request, Goldsmiths shared the following two excerpts from the university’s agreement with BDA (italicised):

Excerpt 1: “4.4. The Institute is part of Goldsmiths and as such must cooperate at all times with any applicable UK law relating to academic freedom and freedom of speech in addition to any other legislation that may apply to a UK public body. As amended from time to time.”

Excerpt 2: “18. LEGAL COMPLIANCE

18.1. BDA shall act at all times in a way that is not incompatible with all applicable legislation and regulations as amended from time to time relating to antibribery, anti-corruption and fraud, discrimination, equality and free speech principles in UK law including but not limited to the UK Bribery Act 2010, Criminal and Financial Act 2017, Prevention of Corruption Acts 1906 and 1916 and the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889 or engages in any activity, practice or conduct which would constitute an offence under any applicable legislation if it had been carried out in the UK or if any person associated with BOA, promises or gives a financial or other advantage to bring about improper performance in relation to the award or execution of the Agreement including any attempts to defraud or defrauding Goldsmiths in any other way, and if so such conduct shall be considered material and/or shall fall under Clause 6.2.2 of this Agreement.

18.2. Discrimination: In performing their obligations under the Agreement each Party shall use its reasonable endeavours to procure that its employees and representatives (where applicable) shall:

¹ <https://archive.vn/VcdDj>

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

³ 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”.

18.2.1 . refrain from discriminating directly or indirectly against any person on the basis of age, disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partner status, pregnancy or maternity, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation;

18.2.2,...comply with and act in a way which is compatible with relevant 'Equality Law including but not limited to the European Convention on Human Rights. any employment rights and legislation as amended from time to time, and all applicable legislation and regulations relating to equality and non-discrimination, including the UK's Equality Act 2010 as amended from time to time; and

18.2.3. comply with all applicable laws, regulations, codes and sanctions relating to anti-slavery and anti-human trafficking, including but not limited to the UK's Modern Slavery Act”.