

Huddersfield University

Huddersfield University's Confucius Institute was set up in 2019 as a partnership with the East China University of Science and Technology (ECUST).

UK-China Transparency was not able to access materials from ECUST relating to the recruitment process for staff at the Huddersfield Confucius Institute.

The Chinese government agency responsible for Confucius Institutes (formerly Hanban, now Centre for Language Exchange and Cooperation, CLEC) states in publicly available material that staff from Chinese universities going to work at Confucius Institutes in other countries 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.¹ UK-China Transparency has translated and reproduced both the form and the order mandating its use.

The form 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).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 response to a Freedom of Information request asking about the legal status of staff from ECUST at the Huddersfield Confucius Institute and whether Huddersfield University had received legal advice regarding this matter, the University stated:

"Please note that these individuals are on secondment from their University/ies and therefore remain as employees of their respective host University (legal status). Therefore there was no requirement for the University for legal advice about the legal status of these roles."

The agreement establishing the Confucius Institute and signed between Huddersfield University and the Chinese government agency responsible for Confucius Institutes states that:

"Chinese citizens involved in activities of the Institute shall be subject to the laws and policies of the University of Huddersfield and the laws and policies of England and Wales."

¹ (NB that opening these pages may entail security risks): CLEC's letter can be found here <http://www.yxnu.net/info/1426/23573.htm> – the 'National Application form' itself can be found here <https://archive.vn/l5FsF>

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".