

### Lancaster University

The Confucius Institute at the University of Lancaster was established in 2011 as a partnership with South China University of Technology (SCUT).

A notice posted on SCUT's website states that applicants must:<sup>1</sup>

- “Generally” be under 55 years of age
- Have their “political thought” evaluated by their department
- Fill in the ‘National Application Form for Teachers Going Abroad’, which has been translated and reproduced by UK-China Transparency. 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).<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>

SCUT’s own recruitment form, translated by UK-China Transparency, contains no other reference to recruitment practices illegal under UK law.

In response to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request asking whether Chinese staff at the Confucius Institute must follow Chinese law on campus, or whether Lancaster University had signed an agreement to this effect, the University stated:

“The University holds no recorded information which indicates that staff from the PRC at the University’s Confucius Institute have to abide by Chinese law on campus.”

In response to a separate FOI request asking about the legal status of staff from China at the Confucius Institute, Lancaster University stated:

“The University does not employ anyone who has been recruited in China for roles in the Confucius Institute. The University has visiting scholars who are seconded on work placements from the University’s Confucius Institute’s partner university in China, the South China University of Technology, to teach Chinese. These work placements are undertaken as part of the China-UK Mandarin Teachers Scheme. The Confucius Institute at the University does not have a Chinese codirector.

“Visiting scholars are considered to be staff at the University but are not considered employees.

“The China-UK Mandarin Teachers Scheme is a Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange Programme which is agreed with the UK government and administered in the UK by the Centre for Language

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<sup>1</sup> <https://archive.vn/Y7ZEv>

<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”.

Education and Cooperation UK. As such the University has not received legal advice about the legal status of the visiting scholar roles and those who occupy them.”