

### London South Bank University

The Confucius Institute at London South Bank University (LSBU) was founded in 2007 as a partnership with Heilongjiang University of Chinese Medicine (HUCM) and Harbin Normal University (HNU).

A message posted online by HUCM states that applicants must:<sup>1</sup>

- “Generally” be under 55 years old
- Be assessed on their “political thoughts”
- Fill in the ‘National Application Form for Teachers Going Abroad’, which has been translated and reproduced by UK-China Transparency. It 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>

A notice issued on HNU’s website that advertises work at LSBU’s Confucius Institute also asks applicants to fill in the ‘National Application Form for Teachers Going Abroad’.<sup>4</sup>

In response to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request asking about the legal status of staff at the LSBU Confucius Institute, LBSU stated:

“The teachers and co-directors are not employed by LSBU but are contracted and remunerated by the Chinese partner universities. They are put in the category of “contractor”/ “contingency worker,” which entails a university email account and fixed-term staff card, allowing them to have access to limited services such as the library and printing and photocopying.”

In response to a separate FOI request asking whether staff from [China] at the University’s Confucius Institute have to abide by Chinese law on campus” or whether the University has entered into agreements demanding as much, LSBU answered “no.”

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<sup>1</sup> <https://archive.vn/JE0Qx>

<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”.

<sup>4</sup> <https://archive.vn/1sqis>