

Queen Mary University of London

The Confucius Institute at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) was established in partnership with the Shanghai University of Finance & Economics (SUFU) in 2014.

On its website, SUFE details the recruitment process for Chinese staff going to the Confucius Institute at QMUL.¹ A recruitment form translated by UK-China Transparency states that applicants must:

- Provide details of their “political characteristics” and “ethnicity”
- Provide details of their spouse and their spouse’s “political characteristics”

Although this is not stated explicitly by SUFE, 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.² 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).³ 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.⁴

In response to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request asking about whether Chinese law applies in any way in respect of the Confucius Institute, QMUL stated: “Confucius Institute at QMUL is a subordinate body of QMUL and its staff, operate according to the laws and regulations of the UK while employed in the UK.”

In response to a FOI request asking whether the Confucius Institutes roles are “university roles”, QMUL stated: “No. These colleagues are employed and salaried in China. However, for QAA purposes, they are required to work to the standard and norms of our university [...] they are employed by our Chinese partner”. [Emphasis added by UK-China Transparency]

In response to inquiries by UK-China Transparency, QMUL stated:

¹ <https://hrweb.sufe.edu.cn/f7/26/c2675a63270/page.htm>

² (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/I5FsF>

³ See Baidu Baike, <https://baike.baidu.com/item/党的外事纪律/9640843>

⁴ 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”.

"Shanghai University of Finance & Economics (SUFU) is no longer a partner of the Confucius Institute at Queen Mary. The information regarding SUFE and its recruitment policies is therefore out of date, and hence should be removed."

The new QMUL Confucius Institute partner is the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT). The Chinese national recruitment guidelines apply to BUPT.