

### Southampton University

The Confucius Institute at Southampton University was founded in 2011 as a partnership with Xiamen University.

On its website, Xiamen University details the recruitment process for Chinese staff going to the Confucius Institute at Southampton.<sup>1</sup> According to a recruitment form downloaded and translated by UK-China Transparency, applicants must:

- Provide details of their “political characteristics” and “ethnicity”
- Be evaluated by a Communist Party Committee

The recruitment notice on Xiamen’s website also asks applicants to fill in the ‘National Application Form for Teachers Going Abroad’, which has been translated and reproduced by UK-China Transparency. The form demands applicants must, in addition to the above:

- 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).<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>

In response to a Freedom of Information request, Southampton University stated of its Confucius Institute staff from China:

“All staff seconded to our Confucius Institute from China have access to services only so that they can use email, one-drive, printers and the library. All staff from China come on Tier S Certificate of Sponsorship; they are not employed University of Southampton staff. [...] The University did not seek legal advice about the legal status of these roles and those who occupy them.”

In response to a Freedom of Information request about whether Chinese law applies in any way on campus, to the Confucius Institute or its staff, Southampton stated:

“Staff would have to submit to the jurisdiction of the particular countries laws and court system that they are working in [sic].”

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<sup>1</sup> <https://archive.vn/Kuc4u>

<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”.