

Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney 2018 Annual Report

Bridging Australia and China



Confucius Institute
at UNSW Sydney
新南威尔士大学孔子学院

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UNSW
AUSTRALIA

THE KPMG AND SCIENTIA BUILDING

FOREWORD

During my years at UNSW Sydney, I have had the great privilege of being at the forefront of significant and wide-ranging impact in the Australia-China space. Now that the Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney is heading towards their ten year anniversary next year, I have seen the Institute continuously strive towards their goal of bridging Australia and China through language, culture and corporate leadership in 2018.

The Confucius Institute has made significant achievements this past year both in developing new initiatives and programs, and building upon those that are already existing. I look forward to seeing the future positive impact that the Institute will create within the Sydney community in 2019.

Laurie Pearcey
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International)
Chairman of the Board, Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney





OUR FOCUS

Our principle focus at the Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney is to bridge Australia and China through language, culture and corporate leadership. We provide thought leadership to corporate Australia on the Chinese economy and actively engage in public dialogue regarding the Sino-Australian diplomatic and economic relationship. We are firmly grounded in our belief in China as a transformative power for Australia, and as such provide opportunities for young people and businesses to connect with and understand China. We have built strong foundations in both teaching Mandarin and promoting Chinese culture to students and members of the wider community. We also specialise in executive education, offering Chinese language and culture tutoring to senior managers from leading Australian and multinational corporations.

Our flagship programs and initiatives include:

- Chinese Corner
- Shanghai Study Tour
- Discover China Program
- Young Leaders to China Tour
- Scholarship Program
- Chinese Language Courses

2018 SYDNEY CHINESE
LANGUAGE SPECTACULAR
新南威尔士州学生 汉语才艺汇演



2018 HIGHLIGHTS

2018 Sydney Chinese Language Spectacular

For the 5th year in a row, the Sydney Chinese Language Spectacular was held at Sydney Town Hall. The annual event was co-organised by the Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney and the Chinese Language Teachers Association of NSW. The event brought together over 800 students from 34 schools to showcase their musical and artistic abilities as well as their language skills.

As this year's event coincides with the Mid-Autumn Festival, the theme for the 2018 Sydney Chinese Language Spectacular was "Friendship and Connectedness"; which reflects the importance of this festival in bringing friends and family together. Performances included classic Chinese songs such as "Full Moon in August", "Crescent Moon" and "The Half-Moon is Rising". Additionally, classic Australian songs such as "Waltzing Matilda" and "Still Call Australia Home" were also sung. Besides the choral arrangements, there were also short plays, dance and martial arts performances and poetry recitals.

The audience of over 2000 attendees included many various VIP guests such as Mr. Laurie Pearcey, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) of UNSW Sydney, Mr. Matt Thistlethwaite MP and Mr. Chris Minns MP. From leaders of the NSW Department of Education, principals of the primary and secondary schools to the Chinese embassy and consulate, VIP guests also included representatives of various businesses and local members of parliament.



2018 HIGHLIGHTS

China World Heritage Tourism Photo Exhibition

On the 28th of March, the China World Heritage Tourism Photo Exhibition was hosted by the Confucius Institute on UNSW Sydney Kensington Campus. The two-day exhibition displayed over 50 world heritage recognised locations in China and was highly successful in connecting both students and staff to the history and culture of China.

Ms. Tanya Spisbah, Head of International Strategic Engagement at UNSW Sydney and Mr. Niu Wenqi, Education Counselor of the Chinese Consulate-General in Sydney, representatives from the Beijing Tourism Development Committee, the Shandong Tourism Development Committee, and more than 100 students from the University of New South Wales attended the opening ceremony.

The photo exhibition moved to an outdoor area on the second day, and allowed for students and staff from UNSW Sydney, and locals alike to enjoy the display. Each picture had a detailed explanation of the location and the historical background, and served as a helpful guide and source of inspiration for people looking to travel and explore China.

Lucius Institute at UNSW Sydney
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2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Business Chinese Course at Country Garden

The CI at UNSW Sydney continues to cultivate links with the local industry and government sectors to expand Chinese language teaching and learning into high-level sectors beyond the university campus. By providing small-scale or one-on-one Chinese classes, the Institute continues to spread knowledge about Chinese language and Chinese culture into higher levels of Australian society.

In 2018, CI started a Chinese Business course for local staff from Country Garden Australia and had 20 hours of classes over 2 semesters.

Ms. Na An, Senior Education Program Officer, was in charge of the Beginner Chinese Business Course that aimed to build a strong foundation in spoken Chinese to boost business communication. The program provided useful insights regarding Chinese workplace etiquette, Chinese company structures and positions, and also dealt with the business card exchange process.

In addition to learning about the Chinese business culture, the course also covered basic daily-use Chinese and other helpful topics such as family, food, directions, traditions, and more. The Chinese Business course was a new venture by the CI at UNSW Sydney and was extremely well received by the Country Garden Australia employees.



2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Discover China Program

Launched for the first time this year, the “Discover China” High School study tour ran for two weeks in July and was co-ordinated by Shanghai Jiao Tong University and the Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney. The program took 30 students from 8 high schools in the Sydney metropolitan area to experience university life and attend unique lectures to boost their knowledge of the Chinese language and culture.

Along with 3 local high school teachers, the group also went on several excursions to Hangzhou and Jinhai Wetland Park to further immerse themselves and understand modern China. The study tour also allowed for students to visit urban forests and see first-hand how steps towards future sustainability have been taken.

In addition to Chinese language classes, the students also had lectures on the Chinese economy, Chinese medicine and sustainability. The students were able to discuss the rapid development of China’s shared economy and also talk about the use of Alipay or WeChat payment options in Australia in the future.

The study tour received much positive feedback from the students and parents alike. As a new short-term winter program, it not only further strengthened the high-school students’ understanding of China and Chinese culture, but also paved a road for future study opportunities for the students.



Matt Thistlethwaite
Federal Member for Kingsford



2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Tracy Liu, Senior Cultural Events Officer, Receives the 2018 Kingsford Smith Community Service Award

On the 22nd of November, Adjunct Lecturer and Senior Cultural Events Officer for CI at UNSW Sydney, Ms. Tracy Liu, received the 2018 Kingsford Smith Community Service Award from the Honourable Mr Matt Thistlethwaite MP, Federal Member for Kingsford Smith. The award ceremony was held at the Randwick Community Centre and members of the Bayside Council also attended the event.

Since taking on the position of Senior Cultural Events Officer in 2016, Ms. Liu has been responsible for organising and creating all cultural events and projects for the Confucius Institute. She has played a crucial role in establishing the two biggest annual Confucius Institute events: the Lunar New Year Celebrations and the Sydney Chinese Language Spectacular.

Ms. Liu has continuously worked with the Bayside Council and the local members of parliament for the past three years to bring the Lunar New Year Celebrations and various aspects of Chinese culture to over 3000 residents. Planning for the Lunar New Year Celebration starts from as early as four months before the actual date and as the head cultural events co-ordinator, Ms. Liu works with not only the local government but also with local schools, as well as student and teacher volunteers.

The immense growth of the Confucius Institute's cultural events has received much acclaim from students and staff at UNSW Sydney and most importantly, have had a large positive impact upon the Bayside residents. The Kingsford Smith Community Service Award reflects the high level of community engagement that the CI at UNSW Sydney is constantly striving to establish. These off-campus cultural events are part of CI's development strategy and shows the deep connection that the CI has with local community.



2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Chinese Bridge Competition

On the 5th of April, the Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney selected an outstanding candidate to participate in the 17th annual "Chinese Bridge" Competition. After two months of intense training, on the 27th of May, Austin Kozak (Chinese name: Lin Hao) received first place in the Preliminary Round for the 17th Chinese Bridge Competition for Foreign Tertiary Education Students at the Lend Lease Darling Quarter Theater.

He then progressed to the next stage in China as one of the representatives for Australia and competed against contestants from all around the world. Once again, Austin, along with several other outstanding students, received the first prize award in the final competition, the 17th Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students, that was held in China.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Cultural Events



Chinese Corner

This popular event aims to give students at UNSW Sydney a deeper understanding of Chinese culture by focusing each week on a particular topic, such as music, calligraphy or festivals. Under the guidance of a project manager in the office, our team of talented Confucius Institute Student Ambassadors delivers a fun-filled semester of cultural lessons, games and activities.

The Student Ambassadors, made up of Chinese international students, plan and run each session, attracting approximately 20 to 30 students eager to learn more about China outside of the classroom. We have received very positive feedback from local students who particularly appreciated the opportunity to interact with native Chinese speakers their own age and to practise their Mandarin in a friendly and relaxed setting.



Kingsford Lunar New Year Celebrations

For the fourth year in a row, the Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney and the office of Federal Member for Kingsford Smith, Matt Thistlethwaite MP, and the Bayside Council, came together to host Chinese New Year celebrations on the 17th of February at Eastern Sydney's Dacey Gardens Park.

There was a plethora of stalls, activities and performances at this vibrant community event which celebrated different aspects of Chinese culture, including traditional folk dancing and music, traditional clothing (Hanfu), lion dances and traditional foods. On the day, teachers and ambassadors from the Confucius Institute ran a few of interactive activities for adults and children, such as Chinese arts and crafts: paper cutting and calligraphy. There was also a God of Wealth that handed out red envelopes with chocolate coins to the public.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Cultural Events



Multicultural Fair

On the 10th of March 2018, the CI at UNSW Sydney participated in Bayside Council's Multicultural Fair at Eastlakes Reserve to showcase Chinese culture to the local community. There were around 3000 overall attendees and many locals visited the CI stall to experience a taste of Chinese culture and got a chance to enjoy the charming melodies of the Chinese zither, attempt the art of calligraphy and try on traditional Chinese costumes.

This was the second time the CI at UNSW Sydney participated in the Multicultural Fair organised by Bayside Council, and event continues to be a great way for CI to promote greater understanding of Chinese culture in the community and enrich Sydney's spirit of multiculturalism.



Confucius Classroom participates in Rosebank College Open Day

On the 6th of May, Rosebank College held an open day for future students and parents to experience the various classes and facilities that are offered. The Confucius Classroom at Rosebank College participated in the open day by displaying various artworks from the students in the classroom. The event was also open to the local community and there were roughly 3000 attendees that were able to see the language learning achievements of the Confucius Classroom through Chinese calligraphy, paper-cutting and more.

Several guests attended the event, including Mr. Niu Wenqi, Education Counsellor of the Chinese Consulate General in Sydney, Mr. Liu Jianbo, Education Consul of the Chinese Consulate-General in Sydney and A/prof Xi Junfang, Chinese Director of the Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Cultural Events



Chinese Food Adventure

On the 25th of May 2018, the Chinese Food Adventure was held in the Dragon Boat Chinese Restaurant by the CI at UNSW Sydney and consisted of several cooking performances from the highly skilled chefs at the restaurant as well as various food related activities such as food quizzes and a plating competition. Through the various food-related activities, the students were able to reflect upon the differences between Australian and Chinese cuisine and were able to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of Chinese food culture.



A Taste of Chinese Tea

On the 29th of August, the CI at UNSW Sydney held a Chinese tea tasting event for employees of Country Garden's Sydney office. Fang Junge, a Confucius Institute Student Ambassador and a senior tea artist, introduced Chinese tea culture to the local staff. The Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney not only focuses on promoting Chinese culture and language learning through various activities on campus, but is also involved with the local businesses and community. This event was the first attempt for the Confucius Institute to create a link for Chinese cultural education towards local companies and it was well received.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Educational Projects

Scholarship Program

We encourage our students to apply for the Confucius Institute Scholarships to study in China that are offered by Confucius Institute (Hanban) Headquarters. Since our inception in 2009, we have had a total of 15 students study in China through our scholarships. Those awarded scholarships are exempt from tuition and accommodation fees, while also being provided with a monthly allowance and comprehensive medical insurance.

Free Chinese Language Help

Every semester we offer students studying Chinese at UNSW Sydney the opportunity to attend our Free Chinese Language Help. This one-on-one tutoring service gives students the chance to work through any problems they might be having with Chinese and work with a native speaker to advance their language aptitude. We have found that the students who are tutored by us are often the top students in their classes.



Chinese Teaching Seminar at UNSW Sydney

On the 16th of March, the CI held the annual Chinese Language Teaching seminar that focused on 'Teaching Chinese Overseas' with Chinese teachers across NSW. Teachers from the CI, Confucius Classrooms and other Chinese classrooms such as: Ms. An Na (Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney), Ms. Ming Yue (Abbot-sleigh School), Mr. Zhang Xuefeng (Da Tong Chinese School), Ms. Bai Yan (Ravenswood School for Girls) and Ms. Du Yuewei (Rosebank College), attended the seminar.

The seminar was an excellent opportunity for Chinese language teachers to share their knowledge and experiences from teaching Chinese in an Australian context, and also strengthened the relationship between CI, the Confucius Classrooms and the affiliated teaching bases.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Educational Projects



Young Leaders to China

From the 1st to the 14th of July 2018, the CI at UNSW Sydney nominated 6 participants for the “Young Leaders to China—Innovation and Entrepreneurship Tour”, which took entrepreneurs from Australia to innovation hubs in China. During the two-week trip to Shanghai, Hangzhou and Beijing, the tour group visited venture capital firms, incubators, e-commerce enterprises and tech companies. The group gained insight into topics such as cross-cultural consumer behaviour, the start-up ecosystem in China, and challenges in entrepreneurship. Two participants entered their start-up plans in the “Think Youth Competition Roadshow” and were awarded 1st and 3rd place in the competition.



Shanghai Study Tour

From the 26th of June to the 9th of July 2018, the CI at UNSW Sydney organised a two-week study tour to Shanghai Jiao Tong University and chose 19 outstanding students from UNSW to participate. The two-week course consisted of a variety of activities besides Chinese language classes, such as Chinese culture lectures on Tea Ceremony and Calligraphy, Taichi and company visits to Volkswagen and Huawei. The students also embarked upon a day trip to Suzhou and were also able to spend their free time exploring Shanghai. Studying at SJTU in Shanghai gave students an enriched understanding of Chinese culture and strengthened their passion for learning Mandarin.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Educational Projects



Enterprise Innovation: Ideas from Start to Launch

On the 14th of August, the CI at UNSW Sydney held a seminar about entrepreneurship in Australia and innovation in the Chinese business landscape and invited successful UNSW Sydney Alumni speakers to talk about their experiences and advice from working in the start-up business field. The seminar attracted over 50 students, and the main goal of the seminar was to inspire students to build upon their own ideas and encourage them to seek out the Chinese market for innovation and entrepreneurship.



Chinese Culture Studies Seminars

On the 10th of September, the CI invited the Associate Dean of the School of Foreign Languages at Shanghai Jiao Tong University as a guest speaker for a seminar on 'Memory and Its Literary Representations: A Comparative Reading of Red Sorghum and the True History of the Kelly Gang'. The discussants for the seminar included Professor Jon von Kowallis, Head of Chinese Studies at UNSW Sydney, and Professor Wang Labao, Director of the Australia-China Institute at WSU. The three professors explored how literature from both Australian and Chinese contexts share similarities by examining the social concerns of the time. Quite a few post-graduate students attended the seminar and gained a better understanding of how historical novels can bring a new level of cultural understanding and how they increase academic discussion.

This seminar was one of many forums and lectures on Chinese culture studies at the CI and these seminars aim to analyse various works of literature, art and film, and increase discussion between experts and scholars with students regarding the relationship between Australia and China.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Collaboration and Engagement



O-Week at UNSW Sydney

From the 19th to the 21st of February, the Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney participated in the university's start-of-semester orientation event, O-Week. Over the 3 days, our staff, ambassadors and volunteers enthusiastically promoted the language and cultural activities offered by the Confucius Institute for new and returning students. Our stall featured a variety of Chinese cultural activities and crafts to engage students, and we were successful in recruiting around 150 new students while also increasing our profile on campus.



Young Professionals Night with ACYA

On the 16th of August, the CI at UNSW Sydney and the Australia China Youth Association (ACYA) jointly held a networking event for young professionals. The evening featured a panel of four industry professionals: Mr. Justin Steele (AussieYou Travel), Mr. Ray Xi (Head of HR, Country Garden), Ms. Victoria Kung (ACBC), Mr. Victor Xu (China Desk Manager, HSBC). Attracting students from UNSW Sydney, University of Sydney, University of Technology Sydney and Macquarie University, attendees at the event had the opportunity to network, find out about the CI and learn about the growth of innovation and entrepreneurship in China.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Collaboration and Engagement



When Tea Meets Coffee

On the 21st of August, the CI at UNSW Sydney co-ordinated with the Tea and Coffee Society of UNSW Sydney to create a tea and coffee event. A tea expert from the Confucius Institute, Fang Junge, re-created a traditional tea ceremony. Mega Hart, an active participant in the Confucius Institute, outlined the relationship between tea and meditation, and also shared her story on her connection with tea. The CI continues to establish strong ties with societies in UNSW Sydney through events such as "When Tea Meets Coffee" and CI has been able to proliferate its presence through these collaborations.



Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration

On the 20th of September, the CI at UNSW Sydney and the Chinese Students Association worked together to create an event for local and international students to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. Over 100 students attended and learned how to make mooncakes, participated in quizzes and shared their experiences regarding this particular festival. Both local and international students bonded over the various stories that they shared over delicious mooncakes and other foods. The event was a great success and provided a better understanding of traditional Chinese festivals and Chinese food for the students at UNSW Sydney.



OUR TEAM

Laurie Pearcey

Pro-Vice Chancellor (International), UNSW Sydney
Chairman of the Board, Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney

A/Pro. Junfang Xi (Emma)

Chinese Director, Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney

Dr Sun Yingli

Advisor of Chinese Language and Culture

Dr. Na An

Lecturer, Senior Education Program Officer

Lyumeng Liu (Tracy)

Adjunct Lecturer, Senior Cultural Events Officer

Guo Li (Lalita)

Adjunct Associate Lecturer, Senior Student Affairs Officer

April Zhao

Marketing and Communications Officer



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