

# CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES IN THE UNITED STATES

Confucius Institutes (CIs) form a global network that provides educational and cultural programs dedicated to the teaching of Mandarin, cultivating Chinese cultural awareness, and facilitating global education. CIs operate as an open and diversified academic network administrated by professional educators.

Confucius Institutes are hosted by public and private universities, K-12 schools, and educational organizations. Each CI is formed as a partnership between an American host institution and one or more Chinese universities or educational organizations with the sponsorship of the educational headquarters in Beijing (Hanban). CIs are established for the mutual benefit of joint educational and cultural exchange and are aligned with the United States government policy initiatives to promote Chinese language education and cross-cultural understanding.

American host organizations apply to establish CIs on their campuses. These host institutions determine the programs, develop their academic curricula, oversee the teaching of language and cultural awareness classes, design and implement global education seminars and events, and coordinate exchange programs. CI directors are American faculty or staff members appointed by the host institution. The Chinese partner institution provides an associate director to assist in CI educational efforts.

Chinese educational partners and headquarters (Hanban) provide support that includes mutually agreed project funding, teaching materials, and teacher candidates, all approved by the American host institutions to meet the demands of American faculty, teachers, students, parents, civic leaders and communities to learn the Chinese language, broaden their cultural knowledge, and advance global education in our diverse, multi-cultural, and inter-connected world.

CIs provide educational resource assistance to faculty and students in American higher education communities that have limited access to Mandarin language lessons or U.S.-China educational and cultural exchange opportunities. In addition, CIs contribute to community-based visual and performing arts activities, international professional development programs, and the promotion of cultural diversity. CI programs engage a variety of participants, including elementary, high school, and college students, senior citizens, housewives, retired military commanders, diplomats, school teachers, firefighters, and law enforcement officers. All programs are dedicated to improving cultural competency and to developing mutual understanding between American and Chinese society.



# FAQs

## **How many Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms are there in the U.S.?**

Currently, there are 110 Confucius Institutes in 49 states and the District of Columbia, in addition to 534 Confucius Classrooms in K-12 schools throughout the U.S.

In 2017,

- **15,100** individual Chinese language classes were delivered, in addition to numerous cultural programs (e.g., tai-chi, calligraphy, musical and dance performances).
- **398,000** students participated in language and cultural classes.
- Over **8,800** cultural activities were organized or co-hosted by Confucius Institutes.
- More than **4 million** people participated in Confucius Institute-related events and activities.
- **559** K-12 school principals and educational officials visited China through the Confucius Institute Chinese Bridge program.
- **1,734** high school students visited China through the Confucius Institute Chinese Bridge program.
- **72** scholarships were awarded for students to study abroad in China.

## **Who runs Confucius Institutes? Are they run by the Chinese government?**

CIIs are run by American host institution faculty and/or administrators with the assistance of faculty from their Chinese partner universities (typically instructors in the discipline of teaching Chinese as a second language). The director of a CI is an American faculty or staff member appointed by the host institution. The Chinese partner institution provides an associate director to support CI educational efforts. Each CI has autonomy and control over curriculum, teaching methodology, resource materials, and exchange programs. CIIs adhere to the same principles of governance and accounting applicable to all institutes and departments in the university.

## **What is taught at Confucius Institutes?**

Confucius Institutes teach humanities classes in Chinese language and culture; they do not teach history, politics, or current affairs. School districts and language departments at universities have complete autonomy and control over their curriculum.

## **How are Confucius Institutes funded?**

CIIs' operational expenses are co-funded by host institutions and the Confucius Institute Headquarters, also called the Office of Chinese Language Council International (or Hanban), which is affiliated with the Chinese Ministry of Education. Confucius Institute Headquarters provides grants that are matched or exceeded by host institutions for CI operations. The typical grant for annual operations of an American Confucius Institute is below \$200,000 USD.

## **Who teaches at Confucius Institutes? How are they hired?**

Confucius Institute instructors are hired locally in the U.S. or are provided from the Chinese partner universities by request of the U.S. host institutions. Invited instructors from China serve as visiting scholars, and are vetted and supervised by American host institutions. They hold visiting scholar visas (J-1) for their academic and educational exchange efforts. They receive a living stipend from the Chinese partner institution; they receive no compensation from the host institutions.



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