

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES IN THE UNITED STATES

What are Confucius Institutes?

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 people-to-people exchanges. 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.

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

CIs 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 over curriculum, teaching methodology, resource materials, and exchange programs. CIs 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?

CIs' 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.



孔子学院美国中心
Confucius Institute U.S. Center

For interview request and additional media inquiries,
please contact Gao Qing at press@ciuscenter.org
www.ciuscenter.org