



CHINESE STUDIES

gold.ac.uk/confucius-institute

Undergraduate

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

“If you talk to a man
in a language he
understands, that
goes to his head.
If you talk to him in
his language, that
goes to his heart.”

Nelson Mandela

1

Why choose Chinese studies at Goldsmiths?

Given China’s rapid economic growth and emergence as a major global powerhouse, there are many benefits to combining your subject area with Chinese studies.

Sino-British bilateral trade, having recently hit an all-time high, means endless opportunities to use your skills in a foreign language that’s not only the most practical, but one of the most beautiful.

2

Learning Mandarin Chinese is about more than conversing with your future business associates.

The language itself holds the key to your in-depth understanding of Chinese politics, economics and trade, a 5,000-year history, and its rich culture that is diverse and distinctive.

You’ll have the skills to access the treasure-trove of literature, drama, and cinema that lay at the heart of Chinese civilisation - channels that offer insights into the cultural soul of the Chinese people.

3

And it’s your understanding of these cultural nuances in addition to your practical language skills that are highly sought after by employers.

No matter how good your language skills are, only your understanding of the Chinese style of communication will complete the package.

A YEAR IN CHINA

Each of the following degrees includes a year in China between Year 2 and your final year. You'll continue with intensive language classes at Capital Normal University in Beijing, one of the most prestigious institutions for teaching Chinese as a foreign language.

You'll develop your spoken fluency of Chinese through the friends you'll make on and around campus. You'll be sharing your language classes with like-minded students from all over the world.

Whether your degree at Goldsmiths is in computing, international relations or sociology, your invaluable day-to-day experiences in Beijing will serve to inspire your work in your final year.

Upon successful completion of your degree at Goldsmiths, you'll have the option of returning to Capital Normal University for a further year of language study. This can lead to the award of Capital Normal University's BA Chinese Language degree.

THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR DEGREE

	Chinese strand offered by Goldsmiths Confucius Institute	Computing, international relations or sociology strand
YEAR 01	Two consecutive Mandarin modules	Specific compulsory and option modules
YEAR 02	Two consecutive Mandarin modules	Specific compulsory and option modules
YEAR IN BEIJING		
FINAL YEAR	Advanced Audio-Visual News Comprehension Advanced Practical Chinese Writing Advanced Chinese Journal Reading Contemporary Chinese Issues	Dissertation and options

OUR DEGREES



BSc (Hons) Computing & Chinese

BA (Hons) International Relations & Chinese

BA (Hons) Sociology & Chinese

BSc (Hons) Computing & Chinese

4 years full-time (including a year in China)
gold.ac.uk/ug/bsc-computing-chinese

With China poised to become the next superpower and the rise of technological industries, Chinese IT and computing companies have a vast potential for future growth and are likely to spread throughout the world and hold great influence in the global field of computing.

On this degree you'll spend a year at Capital Normal University in Beijing where you'll gain further proficiency in Mandarin Chinese and gain first-hand information and cultural experiences. You'll develop an understanding of real market need and enrich your creativity with knowledge of the nuances of Chinese culture.

In your first and second years, you'll learn programming languages such as Java, PHP and Javascript and be introduced to subject areas that include creative computing, web programming, databases and server side programming, graphics and animation, interaction design, artificial intelligence, audio and music computing, and data mining. You'll gain these skills alongside a programme of intensive Mandarin Chinese with Goldsmiths' Confucius Institute, which will prepare you for your year in China.

In your final year you'll use your skills and knowledge gained abroad to advance your Mandarin reading and writing skills alongside studying further computing. You'll choose from a range of advanced modules that include advanced graphics and animation, data mining, artificial intelligence, interaction design and neural networks.

After graduating from Goldsmiths, you'll have the opportunity to enrol for one further year of study at the Capital Normal University in China. Successful completion will lead to the award of its BA Chinese Language.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Mandarin 1
Mandarin 2

Introduction to Programming

Plus computing options such as:

Web Programming

Audio-Visual Computing

Mathematical Modelling for
Problem Solving

Introduction to Games
Development

Year 2

Mandarin 3

Mandarin 4

Plus computing options such as:

Principles and Applications
of Programming

Databases, Networks and the Web
Software Projects

Algorithms and Data Structures

Perception and Multimedia
Computing

Year in Capital Normal University, Beijing

Final year

Compulsory modules:

Advanced Audio-Visual
News Comprehension

Advanced Practical
Chinese Writing

Advanced Chinese
Journal Reading

Contemporary Chinese Issues
Computing Major Project

Plus computing options



BA (Hons) International Relations & Chinese

4 years full-time (including a year in China)
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-international-studies-chinese

The 2008 global economic crisis led to a shift in global power and China was at the forefront of this change. While Europe has been gripped with an age of uncertainty, in China one finds a newfound assertiveness and confidence.

In this degree you'll spend a year in Beijing where you'll get comprehensive language training and gain first-hand experience of everyday Chinese life, gaining the advanced linguistic, cultural and theoretical skills needed to fully understand Chinese political culture. Expressed in ways that all too often appear to Western journalists as a totalitarian nation, you'll be provided with the tools to tell a more complex, nuanced and culturally embedded story.

In your first two years, you'll gain foundation knowledge in international relations, global politics, and comparative area studies and/or political theory. You'll also undertake intensive language training at Goldsmiths' Confucius Institute.

You'll then spend a year studying intensive Chinese at Capital Normal University in Beijing. There you'll gain first-hand experience of everyday life in China, meet like-minded students from all over the world and practise your Chinese with the friends you'll make in Beijing.

Upon your return you'll start the final year of your degree at Goldsmiths during which you'll complete a dissertation and continue with advanced-level Chinese modules with the Confucius Institute.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Mandarin 1
Mandarin 2
World Politics
Political Theory and Ideologies

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Mandarin 3
Mandarin 4
Contemporary International Relations Theories
Global Governance and World Order
Critical Security Studies

Plus one international relations or area studies option

Year in Beijing, China

Final year

Compulsory modules:

Advanced Audio-Visual News Comprehension
Advanced Practical Chinese Writing
Advanced Chinese Journal Reading
Contemporary Chinese Issues
Dissertation

Plus two politics options

BA (Hons) Sociology & Chinese

4 years full-time (including a year in China)
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-sociology-chinese

You'll explore your passion for people, society and transformation through this four-year programme that takes you to Beijing, China for one year.

You'll actively engage in a global world in which China is a major economic, political and social superpower. The content of the degree is a 50-50 split between intensive Mandarin Chinese training through Goldsmiths' Confucius Institute, and sociology modules from Goldsmiths' outstanding Department of Sociology.

In your first year you'll take two intensive Mandarin Chinese modules and two sociology modules.

In your second year you'll begin to read Chinese texts and audio-visual news. You'll also take four sociology modules that will develop your 'sociological imagination'.

Your stay in Beijing takes place in your third year. You'll spend the year enhancing your Chinese language skills at Capital Normal University, where you'll meet like-minded students from all over the world and practise your spoken Mandarin with the friends you make in Beijing. You'll experience a different culture first-hand, which might inspire the work you do in your final year.

In your fourth and final year of the programme, you'll continue with advanced-level Mandarin Chinese modules. You'll complete a dissertation on the sociology topic of your choice and choose from a range of sociology module options.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Mandarin 1
Mandarin 2
Modern Knowledge,
Modern Power
Culture and Society

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Mandarin 3
Mandarin 4
Philosophy and Methodology of
Social Science
Sociology of Culture and
Communication
Central Issues in Sociological
Analysis
Making of the Modern World

Year in Beijing, China

Final year

Compulsory modules:

Advanced Practical
Chinese Writing
Advanced Chinese
Journal Reading
Sociology dissertation

Plus one sociology option

INSIGHTS

Defining 'face'

The nature and definition of face have fascinated thinkers for years. Chinese writer, translator, linguist and inventor Lin Yutang had this to say about 'face': "Interesting as the Chinese physiological face is, the psychological face makes a still more fascinating study. It is not a face that can be washed or shaved, but a face that can be 'granted' and 'lost' and 'fought for' and 'presented as a gift'. Here we arrive at the most curious point of Chinese social psychology. Abstract and intangible, it is yet the most delicate standard by which Chinese social intercourse is regulated."

What is a high-context culture?

According to anthropologist Edward T. Hall in his 1976 book *Beyond Culture*, it's a culture that tends to use high-context messages over low-context messages in routine communication. In a higher-context culture such as in China, many things are left unsaid, letting the culture explain. This means words and word choice become very important, since just a few words can communicate a complex message very effectively. In a low-context culture the communicator needs to be much more explicit, making the value of a single word less important.

Guanxi

Loosely translated as 'connections', the Chinese term *guanxi* can, at times, equal the term 'networking', or describe the relationships between people that hold society together. Particularly significant in the world of business, the elements of exchanges based on *guanxi* carry a long tradition: 'good *guanxi*' can be the key to open doors that are otherwise closed.

Chunyun: the largest annual human migration in the world

Chunyun is the famous mass migration that happens in and out of China's cities before and after Chinese New Year, the annual festival that's bigger than Christmas in the West. It begins around 15 days before lunar New Year's Day when millions of passengers begin the journey home to their families. Characterised by an extremely high traffic load on China's trains, buses and domestic flights, it often exceeds the population of China and, understandably, poses a major challenge to these internal transport services.

OUR STUDENTS



Joshua
BA International
Studies & Chinese

“The course has been very interesting. I have learnt a large and pretty extensive group of vocabulary. The teachers are very interesting and encouraging, making you want to learn more. My experience of Goldsmiths has been good, meeting a variety of different people from a variety of different places and backgrounds.”



Jonathan
BA International
Studies & Chinese

“I have been able to explore the many areas of my course with ease, and knowing that teachers and lecturers are there to help makes it so much better. I enjoy how comfortable the university is - all of the staff and students are friendly, and everyone seems so creative and willing to expand their knowledge. It’s a great learning environment.”

Ricardo
BA International
Studies & Chinese

“I have thoroughly enjoyed the course during my time here. It has been an interesting and enlightening experience, and the skills I am learning will surely help me in the future.

The teachers are very kind and helpful, and make it easier and fun learning a hard language.”

We no longer offer the BA International Studies and Chinese. It has been replaced by the BA International Relations and Chinese.



CAREER INSPIRATION

Graduating from a Chinese studies degree you’ll have a wide variety of career options. That’s because you’ll have the skills that will set you up for success across a range of sectors, and the language and subject area knowledge that will make you highly employable.

Many Chinese studies graduates go on to lead careers in international relations. You may wish to pursue a career with the diplomatic service, for example. As an officer with the Foreign Commonwealth Office, you could promote and protect British interests and citizens overseas, and provide advice and support to ministers developing UK foreign policy. You’ll be able to combine your interest in international affairs with your skills as a quick-thinking problem solver.

You could also consider using your Mandarin language skills and subject area knowledge to work for a wide range of organisations, corporations and NGOs both in the UK and internationally, and to thrive professionally in areas such as the globalised technology sector, UK or Chinese education sectors and the international business industries.

FIND OUT MORE

Find out more about the
department and degrees at:
gold.ac.uk/confucius-institute

Get in touch with our
Enquiries team:
+44 (0)20 7078 5300
course-info@gold.ac.uk

The information in this booklet reflects the 2017-18 programme specifications and was correct at the time of print in June 2017. It is intended as a guide only and the information here is not intended to be binding. You can download the most up-to-date programme specifications from our degree pages by visiting gold.ac.uk/course-finder

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