



THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE IN AUCKLAND

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS 2017





The Confucius Institute in Auckland

The Confucius Institute in Auckland takes its name from one of China's most respected thinkers and philosophers, Confucius (551 to 479 BC).

His influential teachings have been followed and respected throughout history, throughout the world and still lingers today.

Confucius said: "Is it not a joy to be able to practise while learning? That is to say, learning is very important to an individual and education is as important to a country."

He stressed the importance of integrity. "Virtue does not stand alone. He who practises it will have neighbours. As long as we stick to morality and integrity, we will have friends and neighbours."

Our Mission

To support Chinese language and culture in New Zealand schools, tertiary institutions businesses and wider communities through various programmes and in collaboration with partners.

Doing so, the Institute fosters friendship, understanding and respect between New Zealand and China and cultivates a desire for further study and engagement with China, its people, language and culture.





Celebrating 10 Years of Achievement

OVER 80

SCHOLARSHIPS GRANTED

OVER 1,000

SPEECH COMPETITION CANDIDATES

OVER 2,000

EXAMS COMPLETED

OVER 700

ESSAYS SUBMITTED

OVER 200

MLAS ARRIVED

OVER 100,000

STUDENTS TAUGHT





TEN YEARS OF BRIDGE BUILDING 十年筚路

Since 2007, the Confucius Institute in Auckland has undertaken a remarkable journey, transforming the lives of tens of thousands of New Zealanders by helping them build bridges to China.

Established in partnership with the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), Beijing, China; the University of Auckland, New Zealand; and Fudan University, Shanghai, China; we've introduced groundbreaking programmes and initiatives to engage schools, businesses and wider communities of New Zealand's largest city with the richness and dynamism of Chinese language and culture.

We've sent over 140 school leaders to China via our annual principals' delegations, brought nearly 250 Mandarin Language Assistants from China to work in Auckland and wider region schools and added a regular pulse of innovative business courses and vibrant cultural events to Auckland's increasingly diverse civic life.

Now recognised as one of the most successful Confucius Institutes globally, the success of the Confucius Institute in Auckland has come down to enduring partnerships, creative working arrangements and strong buy-in from the community. Over a decade we have seen huge growth in programmes and activities, none of which would have been possible without the generosity and dedication of our network partners and ongoing support from Hanban.

We have been awarded the worldwide 'Confucius Institute of the Year' five times and received a 'Pioneer Award' in 2014. Our director, Nora Yao has been recognised with a prestigious 'Outstanding Contribution' award and our Advisory Board Chair, Prof Jenny Dixon has been awarded an 'Individual Performance Excellence Award' – all by Confucius Institute Headquarters in Beijing.

Looking back on the past ten years gives us a huge sense of achievement, humility, and profound excitement as we look ahead to continuing the journey in the years ahead.







"The road of one thousand leagues, begins with a single step" - Chinese proverb

千里之行,始于足下

Over the past ten years, the Institute's flagship Chinese in Schools programme has transformed the lives of thousands of local students, principals, and families by forging lifelong academic interests, enduring friendships and global career pathways.

Established in 2007 to encourage greater awareness and uptake of Chinese language within the New Zealand school system, Chinese in Schools is much more than simply language learning. Ten years on, it has grown into a highly successful and multifaceted programme, exposing Kiwi students not only to the beauty of the Chinese language, but also to the richness of Chinese culture and history.

Twelve Confucius Classrooms have been established over the decade to support the growth of Chinese in their schools, and those nearby.

At the heart of Chinese in Schools sits the Principals' delegations to China, a programme which demonstrates the power of the old Chinese proverb "Involve me, and I'll understand".

Thanks to support from Hanban and Fudan University, more than 140 principals have now travelled to China with the Institute's delegations, experiencing first-hand the country's incredible scale, fascinating history and culture. Itineraries for these delegations include iconic sights, school visits, lectures at Fudan University, and visits to government organisations and New Zealand companies based in China.

The impact of the visits is frequently described as 'life changing' by participants, many of whom return to New Zealand and immediately take action to kick start Chinese learning at their schools. Since the first delegation, principals have routinely noted how the visits foster a greater understanding of China and the remarkable diversity of Chinese culture.

"This is a country not to be dismissed. We would do a huge disservice to our children if we really and truly do not teach them Mandarin." Anne Malcolm, Principal, Ponsonby Primary School.

Peter Ayson

Principal - Meadowbank School

"The experience," says Peter, "was mind blowing. On the flight home, I wrote a strategic plan for the introduction of Chinese language at Meadowbank School."



"I took back a sense of urgency around preparing our kids for their interactions with China, which will most certainly come in their adult lives. I think that there's a huge opportunity for us." Neil Robinson, Blockhouse Bay Primary School.

"Whilst my school has long been a champion of Chinese language, this visit further reinforced the importance of our students learning this language. The sheer scale of China and its economy means that knowledge of Chinese will ensure our students are valued by future employers." James Bentley, Principal, St Peter's College.

Over time, participants have gone on to inspire other schools to introduce Chinese lessons as well. Teachers also, have had the opportunity to experience China with Hanban's support and networked with other like-minded colleagues at Confucius Institute workshops and conferences.

By sharing their experiences, resources and information, principals and teachers have established strong networks of support and given thousands of students the opportunity to study Chinese.

Principals are central to the work of the Confucius Institute because they are ultimately responsible for the future direction of learning in New Zealand. The more we can help them understand the emergence of China as a global power, and the need for students to be prepared and equipped for this changing world, the more we can make lasting and positive change for the next generation of New Zealanders.



"Isn't it a pleasure to study and practice what you have learned? Isn't it also great when friends visit from distant places?" - Confucius

学而时习之,不亦说乎;有朋自远方来,不亦乐乎

Bringing a language to life is one of the most powerful ways to inspire students, build confidence and make learning enjoyable. Since 2010, the Confucius Institute has been putting this into practice by placing Mandarin Language Assistants (MLAs) into Kiwi classrooms to support the Chinese in Schools programme.

Young, energetic and keen to learn and share, MLAs are predominantly Masters students from University of Auckland's Chinese partner universities who are majoring 'Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language'. They spend a year in New Zealand classrooms, sharing their Chinese expertise, learning the New Zealand way and often developing strong friendships within their schools and communities before returning to China with a wealth of experience and memories.

"The MLA programme has given me a wonderful opportunity in a foreign language environment from which my skills in teaching and intercultural communication have been improved. I also have managed to make some friends here. It is definitely one of the most excellent experiences of my life." Mandarin Language Assistant.

First made possible by the 2008 New Zealand China Free Trade Agreement, the programme has grown from just eight MLAs nationwide in 2010 to the maximum 150 in 2017 managed by three Confucius Institutes in New Zealand. The growth of this programme has had a huge impact on Chinese learning in New Zealand. More than 64,000 students are now engaged in Chinese language learning at primary level - more than French and Spanish, the next two most popular foreign languages, combined. Five years ago, the number of Chinese learners was just 13,000 according to Ministry of Education statistics.



MLAs also bring Chinese culture to life, alongside language learning. From calligraphy and dance to music and cooking, the past 10 years have seen significant growth in the number of culture days being held by schools, with MLAs taking an active and often leading role.

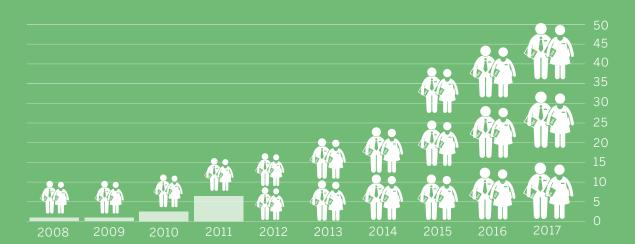
In many ways, MLAs are local ambassadors for Chinese language and culture. For young Kiwis, they frequently represent their first contact with native Chinese speakers, so the impression they make is very important.

"After school, whenever students see me, they greet me and introduce me to their parents. I think this is the first step for me to let them know about China and Chinese culture. Both of my schools have just introduced Mandarin this year so I believe I'm giving it a good start." Mandarin Language Assistant. With demand for MLAs growing exponentially, the programme is carefully managed by the Confucius Institute to sustain the levels of excellence achieved. The Institute in Auckland now caps numbers at 48 across the upper North Island region to encourage and support schools to build teacher capacity and sustain their programmes into the future.

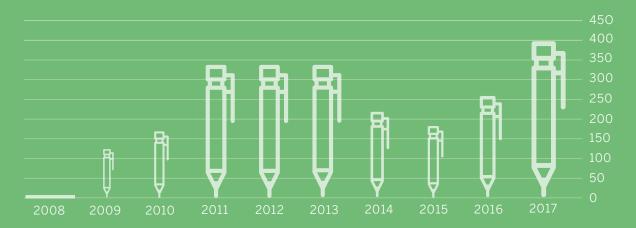
With demand now consistently exceeding supply, the MLA programme is a feature of Chinese learning in New Zealand that has proven to be overwhelmingly popular and an impetus to introduce Chinese in schools.

"Overall this has been a fantastic start to the introduction of Mandarin at our school. We are delighted with the passion for teaching that our MLA has shown and how this is demonstrated in her crafting of interesting and progressive lessons for our students." MLA School.

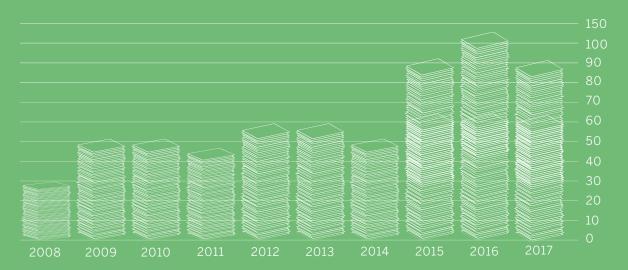
CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE IN AUCKLAND MANDARIN LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS



HSK CHINESE PROFICIENCY EXAM PARTICIPANTS



STUDENT COMPETITION ESSAYS SUBMITTED



OVER 80



OVER 1,000

SPEECH COMPETITION CANDIDATES



OVER 2,000

EXAMS COMPLETED



OVER 200

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CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE IN AUCKLAND CHINESE LANGUAGE STUDENTS TAUGHT BY MLAS











PUTTING EXCELLENCE INTO PRACTICE 追求卓越

Over the last ten years, we've been not only promoting Chinese language proficiency among a wide range of New Zealanders but helping them on their individual Chinese journeys outside the classroom as well.

Our programmes, including speech competitions, essays and exams, delegations and school camps have all seen huge growth in participation since 2007. These programmes have been increasingly embraced by the community, with strong growth in sister school relationships, and new schools in our catchment area from as far as Whangarei and Waikato joining in.

One young Aucklander, Alannah Manson, started learning Chinese aged 11, where classes were compulsory. This gave Alannah the opportunity to develop what she felt to be "an affinity for Asia, and a deep curiosity for China."

Like many other students and encouraged by their Chinese teachers, Alannah began to enter Speech and Essay Competitions provided by the Institute that resulted in her winning a scholarship to study in Chongqing and then later to represent New Zealand in China's speech competition in 2009.

Competitions are an opportunity for students to showcase their skills, and to a considerable level:

regional and national speech competition winners advance to an international competition held in China with all expenses paid. Similarly, the essay competition showcases the students' Chinese writing skills at a national level with the winner awarded the coveted (Chinese) Ambassador's Trophy.

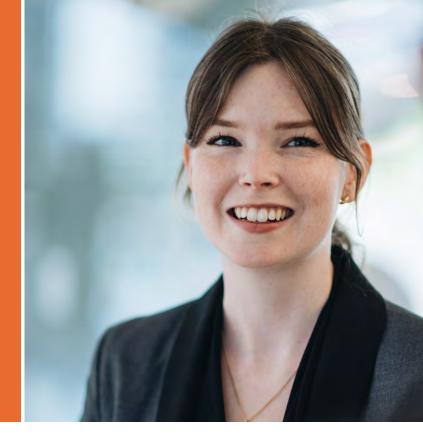
Offering competitions motivates students to develop not only their Chinese language skills in reading and writing, but also their confidence. Opportunities for further study in the language are provided via a number of scholarships from one month to one year. The New Zealand China Scholarship managed by the Confucius Institute opens recipients to apply for the Prime Minister's Scholarships for Asia and also to continue their studies to postgraduate levels.

"I believe that learning another language opens you up to a whole new way of thinking. Seeking to understand people of different backgrounds and cultures surely has huge benefits for the community at large." Alannah Manson, Chinese Scholarship recipient.

Alannah Manson

Chinese Scholarship recipient

"I believe that learning another language opens you up to a whole new way of thinking. Seeking to understand people of different backgrounds and cultures surely has huge benefits for the community at large."



"Deciding to learn Chinese was one of the smartest decisions I've made. I'm really lucky to be part of a generation of Kiwis for whom China isn't a far off and foreign country. I can now choose to visit, explore or live there. The Confucius Institute has really helped to shape my future." Luke Butler, Chinese Bridge Competition winner.

The 2016 introduced University of Auckland Confucius Institute Chinese prizes for top stage two students going on to major in Chinese has also been a motivator to continue studies.

"Learning Chinese has been an overwhelmingly positive experience for me. Studying this wonderful language has already resulted in two trips to China, and countless new friends, memories and opportunities for me, and I would sincerely like to thank the Confucius Institute for the part that it has played in these experiences!" Vlad Yuryev, Confucius Institute Chinese Award recipient.

As well as speech and essay competitions, our Institute is a designated exam centre, serving the

diverse needs of a range of learners. The HSK Chinese Proficiency Test is an international exam for non-native speakers which assesses proficiency in Chinese language. The Youth Chinese Test is specially designed to target younger learners under 15 years such as at the primary and intermediate school levels as they begin to learn the language. The Business Chinese Test is an examination useful for those applying for jobs in China, and for those whose business activities increasingly require Chinese cultural literacy.

With steady numbers each year, we have, continually, looked for ways to offer proficiency assessment opportunities more widely. As a result, we manage the highest number of students currently sitting the exams in New Zealand and the second highest in Oceania—an achievement for which we won official recognition with an award from Hanban, the Confucius Institute's world headquarters in Beijing.



Delegation visits from China and our partner Confucius Institutes worldwide have increased in number every year since 2007 - a genuine recognition of the Confucius Institute's standing in New Zealand.

Of note was a visit in 2012 from Mdm Liu Yandong, the then State Councillor of the Peoples' Republic of China and Chair of Confucius Institute Headquarters. Accompanied by the then Director–General of Hanban, Mdm Xu Lin and other Ministerial dignitaries, they were welcomed by the University of Auckland and students from Confucius Institute's network.

In the past decade, other delegations have included staff from Fudan and other Universities, performers, calligraphers, musicians and many other groups and delegations. Four Memorandums of Understanding have been signed with Mandarin Language Assistant universities in China recognising the Confucius Institute as an official 'training centre' for their students.

The delegations are much more than opportunities for our partners in China to see how learning is

progressing here but an opportunity to also share, collaborate and exchange. In 2012, Hanban invited 80 Kiwi students of Chinese to spend two weeks in China as special guests of the Confucius Institute Headquarters.

Nominated by their schools, the New Zealand students visited Beijing and the city of Jilin, where they were buddied up with local students, attended classes and explored the town and its surroundings. Confucius Institute Director, Nora Yao says the opportunity to practise Chinese and experience the culture on the ground was of immense value.

"The students enjoyed using their basic Chinese in speeches, conversation, meeting people and shopping. When I asked at the airport on the way out who would like to stay longer, I think they all put up their hands," Nora Yao, Director, Confucius Institute in Auckland.

Whether helping high-flying young achievers like Alannah or Luke on their personal journeys, or encouraging others in the wider community to realise the value of Chinese language and cultural literacy, the Institute's award-winning success is very much a shared one, to the benefit of all.





Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit - Jawaharlal Nehru 宽心以修文

The Confucius Institute is far more than just a language learning facility. Our Chinese language learning programmes are part of a holistic approach to teaching cultural literacy. We encourage two-way exchange between New Zealand and China, deepening the richness of cultural crossover and vibrant multiculturalism of Auckland.

Our Institute both reflects this cultural cosmopolitanism and actively promotes the place of Chinese culture in Auckland and wider regions. Recognising the demand within the community for a full and varied calendar of activities, we are closely involved with some of the city's most popular and iconic cultural events, such as the annual Lantern Festival and Chinese New Year celebrations.

Confucius Institute works closely with both the Auckland City Council (ATEED) and the Asia New Zealand Foundation in the Lantern Festival. Once a small stallholder at the Festival, we're now a regular feature to its success. Recent years have seen the Institute set up a full-scale traditional Chinese tea house with imported lanterns from China, where visitors can learn about the art of making tea, play Chinese checkers, admire the art displays and sample a variety of Chinese teas and popular delicacies.

Aucklanders now see the Lantern Festival as part of Auckland's fabric, not something imported from a foreign culture. The Confucius Institute has enriched the Festival by bringing in performers, running tea ceremony demonstrations, contributing lanterns and other activities. "The Festival simply would not be the same without the Institute," Jennifer King, Director Culture, Asia NZ Foundation.

Beyond the Lantern Festival, the Institute works with a wide number of local organisations to promote Chinese cultural awareness, literacy, and involvement throughout the community.



With the Auckland Museum we also help organise the city's Chinese New Year celebrations. We provide the Museum with a host of Chinarelated activities to celebrate the New Year, from organising music and dance activities for young and old, to managing cultural demonstrations, exhibitions and lectures. Our involvement with the Museum extends beyond New Year celebrations to across the whole of the Chinese cultural front where we have been one of their key partners.

Other cultural activities we've led in the past decade include classes in Chinese painting and calligraphy for adults, student art exhibitions, cultural events at libraries and with our colleagues at the University of Auckland.

In 2014, as part of a global initiative to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of Confucius Institute in China, we were the first in the world to start the occasion. Bringing together all our stakeholders, we started with a business breakfast that was then followed with a day of festivities including performances, cultural activities, food samples and lots of prizes.

"Congratulations on a great event. I stayed around most of Saturday and it looked like everyone was really enjoying themselves – the activities were great, and well run and the performances made a great atmosphere." Confucius Institute Day attendee.

As Aucklanders become more familiar with Chinese culture, we look forward to widening our role in bringing the many sights, sounds, smells, colours and flavours of China to Auckland, Northland and Waikato regions.



"Business results start with culture and your people." - Douglas Conant 取利先为仁

As China shifts gear into a more global economy driven by innovation, technology and green energy, more and more Kiwi businesses are finding it necessary to have workforces that understand the basics of Chinese language, etiquette and culture. Well beyond the tourism and exporting sectors, being China savvy is now a commercial reality in areas from banking and government through to hospitality and retail.

The Confucius Institute in Auckland began offering Chinese language, etiquette and cultural courses for businesses in 2010. Since that time, the Institute has helped a number of local businesses and organisations become more China savvy.

"I had resoundingly positive feedback from all participants in the workshop and I am sure that those of us going to China will put yesterday's learnings to good use." Auckland City Council.

On the frontline of exports and biosecurity, New Zealand's Ministry of Primary Industries needs to manage multiple relationships with Chinese visitors to the country, counterparts and business partners in China. In 2015 the Institute provided Ministry staff with customised on-site training to help them better handle these relationships. With interest high, lessons were extended from nine to 26 weeks and included role playing cultural aspects of business interactions.

"This will help me to communicate more effectively with our Chinese business partners and reduce possible conflict. I am going to encourage my daughter to learn Mandarin so we can practice together," MPI staffer.

As well as running these customised courses, the Institute has also built partnerships with the University of Auckland's Centre for Continuing Education for public courses at various levels for different needs. As New Zealand continues to build economic ties with China, equipping businesses to deal with the differences and complexities of engaging with China will only grow.



And the cultural exchanges we organise aren't limited to activities in the public cultural arena. At a higher level, we have an active interest in promoting academic partnership, especially through forums and seminars. Based at the University of Auckland, the Confucius Institute has a strong research partnership with Fudan University. Together we promote academic collaborations between New Zealand and China and invite speakers from each of our universities to our respective events.

Our partnerships have also extended to the University of Otago in Dunedin with a satellite office established in 2011 and formally launched in 2014 – a natural fit with the University of Auckland and Otago being sister universities and with Fudan and Dunedin linked through a Shanghai sister city connection.

We believe these academic exchanges are vital—they demonstrate the same kind of international engagement which shapes similar partnerships in the business community.

They also allow us to share the latest information, insights and trends with wider groups outside academia.

Through forums and seminars we embrace the opportunity to promote academic exchange, meet our responsibility as an international academic body and spread valuable knowledge as widely as possible.

To keep abreast with international affairs, in October 2017, we partnered with New Zealand China Council to host a forum exploring China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, and how New Zealand can play a constructive role in the project. The Belt & Road and New Zealand – China Connectivity forum brought together business leaders and academics to share insights and ideas about the unique contribution New Zealand can make, based on our strengths and geographical location between Asia and South America.



"It takes 10 years to grow trees but a hundred to educate people" - Guan Zhong

十年树木,百年树人

Although the past ten years have been a time of huge growth for the Confucius Institute and we look back proudly on this milestone, we bear in mind that our vision is a much longer term one to promote understanding and respect between New Zealand and China.

This vision can only be achieved with the buyin and support of the schools, business and academic communities, and wider New Zealand sectors we partner with and will partner with going forward. There is clearly more work to be done to teach and equip the next generation of New Zealanders to engage with China in the coming decades, but we are up for the challenge. Our small but dedicated team will continue to set new strategic goals, refine our programmes, innovate in our thinking and evolve as we take on our role as a model Confucius Institute – awarded to us by Confucius Headquarters, Hanban. With our passionate and committed people, supportive board and growing network of partners, our trees have been well and truly planted in the past 10 years. We now look forward to the next 100!







Our Network Partners

The University of Auckland

The University of Auckland is New Zealand's largest university, known for its research and academic excellence. www.auckland.ac.nz

HANBAN (Office of Chinese Language Council International)

HANBAN was established by the Chinese Government in 1987 to foster the study of Mandarin internationally. Its vision is to enhance mutual understanding and friendships between Chinese people and other peoples of the world, promoting trade, economic co-operation, scientific, technological and cultural exchanges, www.english.hanban.org

Fudan University

Fudan University in Shanghai is one of China's leading universities, at the forefront of cultivating and developing academic and industrial talent for China and one of the University of Auckland's strategic partner universities in China, www.fudan.edu.cn

Confucius Institutes

The Confucius Institute in Auckland liaises with others, particularly in the Oceania region and among those affiliated to Fudan University. New Zealand also has a Confucius Institute in Christchurch and in Wellington.

International Languages, Exchanges and Pathways (ILEP)

Pathways for learning languages, teacher professional development in languages and the national adviser for Chinese are available through ILEP. www.ilep.ac.nz

Ministry of Education, New Zealand and China

The Confucius Institute works in partnership with the Ministries of Education in New Zealand and China to manage the national Mandarin Language Assistant Programme established in 2010.

New Zealand China Council

New Zealand China Council brings together experienced private and government leaders to build New Zealand's relationship with China, www.nzchinacouncil.com

New Zealand Chinese Language Teachers' Association (NZCLTA)

NZCLTA, affiliated to NZ Association of Language Teachers, connects and supports Chinese language teachers at primary and secondary levels in NZ. It provides and promotes professional network and development opportunities, to support effective Chinese learning in schools. www.nzclta.org

The Asia New Zealand Foundation

The Asia New Zealand Foundation is a non-profit organisation dedicated to building New Zealanders' understanding of Asia. www.asianz.org.nz

Transforming Practice in Language Teaching (TPLT)

TPLT supports the teaching and learning of languages including Chinese through an in-service year-long professional development programme. It is available to all teachers in New Zealand schools. www.tplt.ac.nz

Our People (2017)

Advisory Board

Chair: Jenny Dixon, Deputy Vice Chancellor Strategic Engagement, The University of Auckland

Danny Chan, Deputy Chairman, Academic Colleges Group Ltd
Chen Wen, Director of Foreign Affairs Office, Fudan University, China (from June 2017)
Chen Zhimin, Associate Vice President, Fudan University, China
Peter (Wing Ho) Chin, Former Mayor, Dunedin City Council
Paul Clark, Professor of Chinese, The University of Auckland
Patrick English, Former Executive Director, New Zealand China Council
Daniel Fang, Education Consul, Chinese Consulate-General in Auckland (to September 2017)
Liu Wansheng, Education Consul, Chinese Consulate-General in Auckland (from September 2017)
Helen Nicholson, Deputy Vice Chancellor (External Engagement), The University of Otago
Wu Zhongwei, Dean, International Cultural Exchange School, Fudan University, China

Staff

Director: Nora Yao

Deputy Director: Zhou Bing Manager: Janine Chin

Administration Team: Nina Zhang, Lisa Shi Chinese In Schools Facilitator: Raewyn Ho Examinations Coordinator: Meiju Wang

Hanban Teacher: Zhang Yan (to September 2017), Liu Jia (from September 2017)

Mandarin Language Assistants: Peng Xinrar Plus 46 placed in New Zealand schools







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CELEBRATING 10 YEARS 2017











www.ci.ac.nz

