



**CONFUCIUS
INSTITUTE**

Mandarin Language Assistants

Mandarin Language Assistants are available to support Chinese language programmes in New Zealand schools for the 2019 academic year.

Background

The New Zealand-China Free Trade Agreement allows Mandarin Language Assistants (MLAs) to temporarily work in New Zealand to support the learning of Mandarin and raise the quality of Mandarin language provision in New Zealand schools.

The New Zealand Ministry of Education and Confucius Institute in Auckland is part of this initiative by selecting, managing and providing orientation and on-going professional and personal support to the incoming MLAs; providing support to respective lead teachers in schools, and monitoring progress during the school year.

The role and contribution of Mandarin Language Assistants

The role of a MLA is to assist the teaching of Mandarin more effectively, provide information and insight into Chinese culture and language, model accurate pronunciation and intonation and assist the classroom teacher.

Mandarin Language Assistants:

- bring, by their presence, the target language, culture and country into the classroom;
- provide opportunities for students to interact with a native speaker, stimulating genuine classroom communications;
- assist teachers in the classroom and/or make small group work not only possible but more effective;
- assist teachers to improve their own linguistic and cultural knowledge;
- enable more students to take part in individual conversations in the target language and
- assist with the preparation of up-to-date resources using authentic language.

More information on how MLAs work in practice can be found at www.ci.ac.nz.

Funding

Confucius Institute Headquarters in Beijing, China will fund the international travel costs and a living allowance for the MLAs for 2019. In return, successful New Zealand schools are responsible for health insurance costs and homestay accommodation arrangements for the MLAs.

The MLAs/Confucius Institute will contribute up to an overall total of \$250/wk towards their homestay accommodation expenses. Costs above this will be made up by the participating schools.

The New Zealand Ministry of Education also contributes to above costs for twelve MLAs.

Eligibility

All schools are eligible to apply to host a MLA, either individually or in partnership with other schools. Twelve State or State-integrated schools will be supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Education to help cover health insurance and part of the accommodation costs. MLAs can assist with new or established Mandarin programmes.

Selection criteria

Preference will be given to schools that can demonstrate:

- a commitment to, and demand for, the teaching and learning of Mandarin;
- how the MLA programme will complement or build upon current and previous initiatives the school has accessed for Mandarin programmes;
- how, and the extent to which, the placement of a MLA will support the development of their language programme, including student progression and achievement and staff capability;
- a partnership with neighbouring schools so that the MLA can support language programmes at a number/pathway of schools;
- how the MLA will be supported in the school and
- how their language programme will be developed following the conclusion of the MLA's placement.

Placement of MLAs will take into account the need for distribution on geographic and decile grounds as well as across primary, intermediate and secondary schools within the Confucius Institute's region spanning from Northland to Waikato.

Preference will also be given to schools that have not had a MLA for more than three years.

Expectations

Successful schools will be expected to:

- sign an agreement with Confucius Institute regarding the roles and responsibilities of each party to ensure the MLA programme runs smoothly and
- demonstrate a commitment to developing a sustainable Chinese programme in their school.

Links to other initiatives

In addition to participating in the MLA scheme, schools can further develop their Mandarin language programmes through fully funded programmes with:

- ILEP (International Languages and Exchange Pathways)
- Transforming Practice in Language Teaching (TPLT – previously TPDL) programme and
- AFS Language immersion awards (short and long term).

Refer to the *Chinese Language in New Zealand Schools* resource for further information on these initiatives and other available resources:

http://asia-knowledge.tki.org.nz/chinese_language_in_nz_schools.

How to apply

Visit Confucius Institute www.ci.ac.nz and complete the expression of interest form online by **5pm, Friday, 26 October 2018**.

Successful schools will be notified by 9 November. Principals and lead teachers of 'first time' MLA schools will be expected to attend an **Introduction workshop on Friday 16 November** for background information and expectations of the programme to ensure a successful year. Please note this date in your diary if applying!

The MLAs are expected to arrive in New Zealand end January 2019, in homestays from 1 February and in schools from 4 February. Schools will need to make alternative arrangements if dates do not fit in with your school term.

Contact

For further information, please contact Janine Chin, j.chin@auckland.ac.nz.