



Tianjin Scholarship Opportunity for 2026/27

Dear Colleagues,

The Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools and our Chinese partners – The Tianjin Municipal Education Commission and Tianjin Normal University - are delighted to offer selected Scottish young people a one-year scholarship to learn Chinese in Tianjin for the academic year 2026-27. This life changing opportunity is the only one of its kind offered to schools in any European country by our partners in Tianjin and rewards the commitment that Confucius Classroom Hubs in Scotland have demonstrated in the promotion of Chinese language and culture.

I. Full scholarship will include:

- One year's tuition fees
- Shared accommodation
- Food allowance
- Initial visa cost in the UK

II. What each student will pay:

- International air travel - return from Scotland to Beijing. Applicants are expected to meet all their own international travel costs.
- Residence permit
- Registration fee
- Health check
- Textbooks
- Gap year insurance (health, travel and belongings)
- Spending money for travel, entertainment etc.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, you must:

- Be a non-Chinese national from a non-native Chinese-speaking background.
- Be a current S6 pupil at a Scottish state school within a local authority that has a Confucius classroom hub. If your school is in an authority which does not have a hub, then you are still eligible to apply if you are taking part in the Discovering China National Qualifications courses.
- Hold a valid passport and be eligible for a Chinese visa.
- Be committed to learning Mandarin.
- Be committed to spending one academic year in Tianjin, China from September 2026 to June 2027.

Conditions of the scholarship *

Successful scholars will be expected to:

- write a monthly blog about their experience
- attend all classes and examinations for the duration of the scholarship
- participate in events organised by CISS or the partner university while in China
- respect and adhere to the Tianjin Scholarship Code of Conduct
- be willing to be part of the CISS alumni group after successful completion of the scholarship

**Failure to abide by the conditions of the scholarship could lead to funding being withdrawn at any point*

Criteria for application

Essential	Desirable
Ability to demonstrate a commitment learning Mandarin	Interest in and commitment to learning about other languages and cultures
Ability to demonstrate digital literacy	Ability to represent the values of the university of Strathclyde and CISS
Ability to demonstrate adaptability and self-reliance	Experience of staying away from home
Ability to demonstrate an international outlook and global citizenship	Involvement in a range of extra-curricular activities
Sensitivity and openness to other cultures	Mandarin at SCQF 3 or above
Demonstration of leadership skills and ability to work with others	Experience of operating in an international environment
Experience of being a positive role-model	

Application Documents

Applications must be submitted to the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools **by Friday 31 October 2025**. The application form is available [online now](#).

As part of the application, you will need to prepare the following:

1. Personal Statement. No more than 600 words outlining the skills and qualities which make you a strong candidate for this scholarship.
2. Two reference letters of recommendation. One reference should be from the Headteacher of your school and the other reference should be non-school based, e.g. an employer, sports coach, youth leader. Your references should be uploaded along with your application in Word, PDF, or image format.

Please prepare these in advance of starting the application, so you can add them as you complete the form.

Any incomplete applications or applications without references will not be considered.

Guidance for referees

When writing a reference for candidates, please consider the following:

- suitability of the candidate to spend 10 months abroad in a learning environment
- resilience
- attendance and punctuality

Approval and Notification

Candidates will be selected for interview based on the strength of their application by the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools and the Tianjin Municipal Education Commission. Successful candidates will be interviewed in-person at the University of Strathclyde during the following dates:

- Wednesday 3 December
- Thursday 4 December
- Friday 5 December
- Monday 8 December

Applicants will be notified of the interview outcome by the end of the month.

Contact Information

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