

MANDARIN CHINESE TASTER COURSE

The Language Centre at Queen's

A Taste of Mandarin Chinese



About this Course

This taster course will take you on a journey from Belfast to Beijing in 8 short lessons.

As part of our commitment to increase Chinese language awareness amongst staff and students throughout the University, this online 'taster' course is the perfect 'stepping stone' into further Chinese language learning, offered by The Language Centre at Queen's.

Mandarin Chinese isn't difficult, it's just different, and the aim of this short taster course is to prove just that. Chinese is particularly fascinating because of its beautiful handwriting, melodic spoken language, and poetic phrasing.

We all know that employers love their workforce to be able to speak a multitude of languages, and people with Mandarin Chinese language skills have never been more highly sought after by prospective employers, as more companies and organisations develop links and relationships with China. Learning Chinese gives you the opportunity to take advantage of the most widely spoken language in the world. It's a great ice breaker when working with people from China if you can speak or even say a few words in Chinese.

One of the benefits of this course is that you don't need to learn how to write Chinese characters, making it easier for Chinese enthusiasts to follow and complete this course. By the end of the course, you will have gained an overview of Mandarin Chinese and should be able to complete a number of basic tasks, such as counting from 1-100, greeting people in various situations and understanding how

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to read pinyin. In addition to the many teaching videos contained in this course, there are a selection of practice activities which will help you put what you learn into practice and hopefully stimulate your interest for more.

Prerequisites

No previous knowledge is required.

Course Content

Some of the topics covered in this course include:

- Overview of Mandarin Chinese
- Introduction to Chinese pronunciation
- Basic Chinese Greetings & Introductions
- Learning to Count
- Chinese Dates
- Nationality

Teaching methods

***A Taste of Mandarin Chinese* is a self-paced online course. It has no start or end date so you work through each topic in your own time.**

If you have questions about any of the course materials, you can post a query on the Q&A discussion forum at any time. All queries will be answered by The Language Centre within **48hrs**. We are here to support you every step of the way. In order to benefit fully from this taster course and to achieve the learning outcomes stated below, you should spend a number of hours getting familiar with each topic.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this short course you should be able to:

- Pronounce Chinese pinyin and tones with reasonable accuracy.
- Count from 1 to 100.
- Understand how dates are constructed in Chinese.
- Understand the various ways of greeting and introducing people in Chinese.
- Pronounce country names and identify nationalities.
- Gain sufficient confidence to take your Chinese learning to the next level.

To sign up for the taster course, please contact Dr Liang Wang at
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