

FIVE GREAT REASONS TO STUDY CHINESE

Learning Chinese will introduce you to new ideas, new friendships and new opportunities. It enriches your life in ways you couldn't imagine.

Koen Vandecaveye,
Senior Business Manager,
International Trade & Investment
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1 Communicate with the world

Speaking Chinese gives you the opportunity to communicate with over a billion new people, enabling you to gain insights into another way of living, thinking and looking at the world. Chinese is the world's most widely spoken language and the second most widely used language on the internet.

2 The language of the future

China's economy is one of the largest in the world and still one of the fastest growing. As trade and investment continue to expand, so do the opportunities for speakers of Chinese.

3 Become an expert on China's history, culture and society

Studying Chinese at university will show you which aspects of history and culture have helped make China what it is today and will enable you to explore China's fascinating contemporary culture – from flourishing hip-hop scenes and hit TV costume dramas to Sherlock Holmes fan fiction.

4 Challenges and rewards

The Chinese script is not alphabetical and the strokes and pronunciation of characters need to be memorised individually. But characters are fun to learn, Chinese grammar is much simpler than grammar in European languages, and the sounds of Mandarin are not challenging to learn.

5 Career prospects

Proficiency in Mandarin Chinese is a highly regarded skill by employers in the UK and around the world in international trade, diplomacy, education, translating and interpreting, financial consultancy, the cultural industries, journalism, law, advertising, the civil service, policy making, event management, security, tourism and many more areas.

Through my ability to speak Mandarin, I have worked as a translator for the oil & gas industry, in the commercial office of a local government development zone in China, and in the football industry for Manchester United and now F.C. Internazionale Milano. Language is a core part of being able to operate effectively in any country and with its people; to learn Chinese is to unlock these myriad opportunities and put you on an exhilarating career path.

Richard Lamb, International Business Director, F.C. Internazionale Milano

WHY STUDY CHINESE NOW?

Studying Chinese will give your CV a boost and may be enough to bring it to the top of the pile, as it shows that you possess not only much-needed language skills but also the cultural intelligence or "CQ" required to adapt to new and challenging cultural situations in a professional context.

WHERE CAN I STUDY?

For a list of all UK universities that currently offer Single Honours/Majors and Minors in Chinese go to bacsuk.org.uk/chinese-in-uk-universities; for more information, check out the website of the British Association for Chinese Studies at bacsuk.org.uk.

The British Association for Chinese Studies (BACS) is a non-political organization which aims to encourage and promote Chinese studies in the United Kingdom. For more information on our activities please visit our website at bacsuk.org.uk and follow us on Twitter: @bacs_china, and on Facebook: [facebook.com/bacsuk.org.uk](https://www.facebook.com/bacsuk.org.uk).

Learning Chinese allowed me to experience a culture completely different from that of my home country, and even continent. It allowed me to make friends, work and travel in what I consider to be the most relevant country in of the 21st Century.

Hannah Murray, Business Development Coordinator, Benoy – Architecture, Masterplanning, Interiors, Graphics