

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR CHINESE STUDIES

## Constitution

1. The name of the Association shall be '*The British Association for Chinese Studies*'.
2. The object of the Association shall be to encourage and promote Chinese studies in the United Kingdom, in particular by organising conferences, lectures, seminars and other appropriate activities, by disseminating information and by encouraging co-operation among interested persons and organisations.
3. The Association shall consist of the following categories of membership: 'Individual Membership', 'Family membership', 'Student Membership', 'Corporate Membership' and 'Affiliate Membership'.
  - **Individual** Membership shall be open to individuals who support the object of the Association.
  - **Family** Membership shall be open to more than one member related by close kinship, such as living together as a couple, and/or parent and child.
  - **Student** Membership shall be open to individuals who support the object of the Association and are registered for a degree at a higher educational establishment and/or are not in full-time employment.
  - **Corporate** Membership shall be open to organisations which support the object of the Association, and they shall be admitted on terms to be laid down by the Council.
  - **Affiliate** Membership shall be open to members of organisations which support the object of the Association, and they shall be admitted on terms to be laid down by the Council.
4. From every member in the above categories (with the exception of Affiliate Members) an annual subscription shall be payable in advance and shall be due to the Association on the first day of January in every year. The amount of the subscription for each of these categories shall be determined from time to time by the AGM of BACS at the recommendation of the Treasurer and Council. The Council shall have full power to remove from the list of members the name of any member whose subscription is in arrears.
5. The constitution shall be available for consultation on the website.
6. The management of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in a Council which shall act in accordance with this Constitution and the Resolutions passed at the Annual General Meeting insofar as it is legal and practical for it to do so. The Council shall report to the AGM upon action taken by it during the preceding year.
7. The officers of the Association shall be the President, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. The President, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by Members of the Association at the Annual General Meeting. The election of all three officers of the Association shall not normally take place in the same year.

The President shall serve on Council for three years, and shall be co-opted for a further year after relinquishing the presidency to act in an advisory, not a decision making (voting), capacity. S/he shall not be immediately eligible for re-election, and a period of two years must elapse after s/he ceases to serve on Council before s/he is eligible for re-election. The Honorary Secretary and Treasurer shall serve on Council for three years, and a period of two years must elapse after they cease to serve on Council before they are eligible for re-election.
8. The Council shall consist of the President, Honorary Secretary, Treasurer, and Ordinary members elected to the Council, as well as non-voting representatives (the JBACS Editor, one representative each from Affiliate Members, and members co-opted onto Council as necessary).

Three Ordinary members shall normally be elected to the Council at each AGM by Members of the Association at the Annual General Meeting. Ordinary Members of council shall serve for three years, and a period of two years must elapse after they cease to serve on Council before they are eligible for re-election. Five members of the Council, of whom two shall be the President, Honorary Secretary and/or Treasurer, shall constitute a quorum. The Council shall have the power to co-opt not more than FIVE additional members. Co-option shall lapse after

the AGM of the year of appointment, unless renewed by the Council. The holders of the offices of Website Manager, Schools Liaison Officer and Bulletin Editor shall be selected by Council from its Ordinary or representative members, or by co-option onto Council.

9. Nominations for office or ordinary membership of Council must be signed by a proposer and seconder who are members of the Association and must be received by the Honorary Secretary at least twenty-eight days before the AGM. Members of the Association will be notified of voting procedures at least twenty-one days prior to the AGM and the results of the ballot will be ratified at the AGM.
10. The Council shall have power to fill any unexpected vacancies occurring among the offices or ordinary elected members of Council, such replacements serving only until the next AGM. Such vacancies shall then be filled at the normal election to the Council.
11. An AGM shall be held either at the annual conference of the Association or, in a year in which no annual conference is held, at a date and place determined by the Council, for the necessary election of officers, and members of the council, for the receipt of the annual accounts, and for the receipt of a report on the activities of the Association and its Council during the past year, and for the consideration of any other matters put forward by the Council and of any other business of which notice shall have been given in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least twenty-eight days in advance.
12. Fifteen members of the Association may at any time call an Extraordinary General Meeting by giving notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary stating the motion or motions to be brought forward. An EGM shall be held at a time and place to be determined by the Council and shall take place within six weeks of receipt of such notice by the Honorary Secretary. Not less than four week's notice shall be given of an EGM. The notice of the meeting shall state the business to be transacted and no business other than that specified in the notice shall be transacted at such a meeting, at which twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum.
13. Any decision at a General Meeting shall be adopted if approved by a simple majority of those members voting. Each Corporate Member represented shall be entitled to one vote.
14. This Constitution other than the objects of the Association (clause 2), this clause, and the provisions for dissolution (clause 16) may be amended by a ballot of all Individual Members, Family Members, Student Members, Corporate Members and Affiliate Members, if the proposed amendments are approved by two-thirds of those members returning properly completed ballot papers, provided that no amendment shall be made which would cause the Association to cease to be a charity in law.
15. The income and property of the Association shall be applied solely towards the promotion and objects of the Association, as set forth in this Constitution, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus, or otherwise by way of profits to members of the Association.
16. If upon winding up or dissolution of the Association there remain, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the Members of the Association, but shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Association, and which shall prohibit the distribution of its income or their income and property among its or their members to the extent at least as great as is imposed on the Association under or by virtue of Clause 15 hereof, such institution or institutions to be determined by the Members of the Association at or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such a provision, then to some charitable object.
17. The Council shall have full power to deal with any matter affecting the Association's interests that is not provided for in this Constitution. It may occasionally formulate its own standing procedures. The latest version of these will be held by the Officers of the Council and published on the website.

Date: 2 October 2016