



School of Modern Languages

Newcastle University

Chinese @NEWCASTLE



EDITED BY Linda Cheng 2022-2023

Student Experience of Studying Chinese at Newcastle University

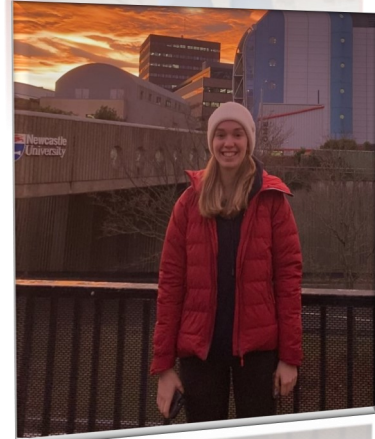
Alice Quirk, Level B student

Starting a new language can be challenging, however there are many aids put in place to support learning Chinese. For instance, this semester we received personal feedback for the exams that we sat before Christmas. This was very constructive and will help further improve our Chinese. On top of this, our homework, alongside our VGT tests (weekly online tests), are marked and graded weekly, helping to consolidate our learning. I like the structure this provides. Any misunderstandings become easily identifiable and can be rectified in class. Compared to the other two languages I study, I receive a lot more feedback on my work, for which I am very fortunate. Moreover, we have many more contact hours with our lectures for our Chinese classes. I truly enjoy our Chinese classes; the lessons fly by.

Recently, we have been notified where we will study on our year abroad. Everyone I have spoken to seems very happy with their allocated university choice, which is great to hear! In general, there are mixed emotions of excitement and nervousness towards studying in China. Nonetheless, this is completely normal, and we will be at the same university with a few of our fellow classmates, so in that respect, we'll all be in it together. Moreover, the opportunity we had last semester to meet international students from China has given us the chance to make contacts in advance.

Next month, we look forward to welcoming students from Newcastle schools studying Mandarin, who have been invited to explore the campus.

Although my greeting is a little late, I am wishing you all a very prosperous happy New Year!



Chinese New Year Making dumplings In Grainger market 2022 By Shirley Knott



### Rosie Dawes, Level B student

To say that learning Chinese has been nothing but a delight must sound like a gross exaggeration to those who have not been so lucky as I have in their university experience. Yet, it is not a lie. When I picked up studying Chinese, I was in my second year of a music degree which was draining me of my desire to learn. Within a month of starting my new language module, I knew that this was what I was meant to do. In a flash, I had dropped out of my music course and enrolled as a Chinese Studies student. For the first time in years, I found myself relishing my work and feeling ambitious about the future. Of course, frustrations always come with learning languages, and I found myself exasperated that I wasn't immediately perfect. Hours upon hours of writing the same character over and over, mumbling incoherent Chinese phrases to myself while cooking, and becoming utterly engrossed in C-dramas; my friends must have thought I was crazy. But I knew they didn't understand that I was completely besotted with this new language. Chinese filled my head day and night. So yes, I would say that learning Chinese has been a turning point in my life, but I know that much of the reason for this is the incredibly high standard of teaching I have experienced. The experience of other language students seems to pale in comparison to us, the lucky few, who have been fortunate enough to learn Chinese here at Newcastle. Having six hours of contact time a week means that I have been able to expose myself to Chinese as often as possible. Our classes are small and friendly, which makes for a wonderful learning environment. While we are under pressure to work hard, all our progress is supported by our teachers who provide us with invaluable learning materials. And a year on from my decision to change the trajectory of my education, to extend my university time by two more years, I have no regrets. It is still the best decision I have ever made. Every time someone asks me what I am studying, I tell them. And they gasp. Their eyebrows twisting, they say some variation of, 'Wow, that's cool. Is it difficult?'. Yes, it is, of course it is, but there is nothing else on this earth I would rather be doing.



### Betty Brenman, Level D student

Studying Chinese at Newcastle University has been an incredibly fulfilling and enjoyable experience and I am so happy that I chose this course at this university. The course size is extremely small compared to many other degree programmes and so you get to know everyone well. The teachers all know you personally and so can truly help you progress, regularly offering individual feedback and support. This year was extremely disjointed and unpredictable due to the pandemic and so we were not able to go to China during our Year abroad. Nevertheless, I still feel like my language was able to progress. Both the teachers at Newcastle helped us build on our language skills, as well as the teaching I received from BLCU during my 'year abroad'. As our language level increases, the content that we cover becomes progressively interesting and topical. We read Chinese articles on a wide range of topics, from economic policies to gender and societal issues and so we can increase our cultural knowledge whilst improving our language skills. The course also offers great culture modules (taught in English) which cover both Chinese history and contemporary issues, taught by leaders in the field, which is truly inspiring. I believe that the Chinese Studies course at Newcastle University is truly exceptional.

### Contact us

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## Chinese Studies (UCAS code TT12) Course overview

This four year Chinese Studies degree immerse you in the study of the culture and society of China. It focus on developing your languages skills and building an appreciation of different cultures

You'll gain an in-depth insight into how culture, cinema, history, politics and society shape the countries

where your chosen language is spoken.

You'll develop the knowledge and understanding you need to engage with people in their native language.

You'll graduate as a confident linguist, in your chosen East Asian language, ready to embark on your career journey as a global citizen.

You will be well positioned to take advantage of exciting new career opportunities emerging from Britain's growing connections with East Asia, as China's economic and political power continues to rise.

### Quality and ranking

6<sup>th</sup> in the UK-The Complete University Guide 2022(East and South Asian)

4<sup>th</sup> in the UK Sunday Times Good University Guide2022

6<sup>th</sup> in the UK for research power Research Excellence Framework 2014 (Modern Languages)

### Year Abroad

This degree includes a compulsory year abroad. You'll follow an intensive programme of language study at a university in China, while building relationships with native speakers and absorbing the local culture. In China, you can study in: Beijing ,Shanghai ,Xiamen ,Chengdu ,Haikou



As a Modern Languages student, you'll be based at our city-centre campus, in the School of Modern Languages. We've been teaching modern languages in Newcastle for more than 100years.

### Facilities

You will have access to language lab and the award-winning Language Resource Centre, with self-study resources for over 50 languages. You'll also have access to:

specialist language learning software ,dictionaries, films live foreign-language TV channels

### Support

You'll have the support of an academic member of staff as a personal tutor throughout your degree to help with academic and personal issues.

Peer mentors will help you in your first year. They are fellow students who can help you settle in and answer any questions you have when starting university.

