

Module Title: Introductory Chinese

Module Code: CHI4200

Credit Value: 30

Level: 4

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

Welcome to the *Learn a Language* programme of Queen Mary. Language learning broadens the mind – you learn how different cultures and societies organize the world through language, you acquire a new vocabulary, new concepts, cultural knowledge, and become more interculturally aware. You can connect with people in another society in *their* language, a connection that is likely to be closer than if you make them speak *your* language or you communicate in a third language, such as English. You can use your language skills in your future career – employers consistently ask for better language skills in graduates. And, finally, language learning has cognitive benefits – studies show that bilinguals are more perceptive and have better memory. Speaking another language makes you more aware of language structure in general, and a better communicator.

Chinese is spoken by about 1.6 billion people, with one fifth of the world's population now using it as their mother tongue. Chinese has become more and more popular for language learners, and with the economic development of China and its overseas investments, speakers of Chinese are in high demand. Knowledge of the language can help you in a government career, but it will also be of benefit in business and in industries such as engineering, medical, and in the non-profit and international relations sectors. Speaking Chinese can help you build relationships with people in China and overseas Chinese communities.

Module Aims

This module, Introductory Chinese (CHI4200), is taken by students on the Chinese pathway of the BA Modern Languages, and students taking Chinese as part of the Language and Culture theme on the BA Liberal Arts. It is the first building block in helping you move from no or very little knowledge of Chinese, to beyond A-Level standard within the first two years of your programme, and prepare for your study abroad in China in your third year.

The overall aims of this module are to provide students with a sound knowledge of the basic grammar and vocabulary of Modern Standard Chinese and to develop elementary level skills in Chinese speaking, listening, reading & writing, developing an active knowledge of around 900 lexical items written in Chinese characters.

Specific Aims:

- to introduce students to ideas in Chinese culture that are central to effective cross-cultural communication
- to teach Students approximately 600 words and the corresponding set of approximately 175 Chinese characters required for basic communication
- to introduce and practice pronunciation of all basic sounds in Mandarin, including tones and tone changes
- to learn the Pinyin Romanisation system as a gateway for future study
- to teach students fundamental grammar and vocabulary necessary for reading basic conversations and short narrative passages in Mandarin Chinese
- to combine and recombine information in the target language
- to develop basic communication skills
- to locate target language information on topics they are familiar with
- to build students' listening skills such that they can understand speech delivered at reduced speeds
- to enable students to write brief remarks about themselves and their daily lives
- to foster an inclusive and collaborative environment in which to enhance learning and develop communicative skills, such as oral presentations and knowledge transfer during pair work or small group activities.

You will learn the language through tasks designed to develop your skills in speaking and writing. You will also read and listen to simple texts, to develop your receptive skills. The aim is to achieve a balance between fluency and accuracy, which means grammar and structure are an integral part of this course.