

Why Study Chinese at WSU?

为什么在西悉尼大学学习中文？

What you should know:

Chinese is important to your future

1. Mandarin Chinese is the standard official language spoken in China and the most widespread common language spoken in the many large Chinese communities outside China. About one quarter of the world's population communicate in Mandarin for both business occasions and daily activities.
2. Mandarin Chinese is the second most spoken language after English in Australia.
3. China is the second largest economy in the world and China is Australia's largest trading partner.
4. The study of the Chinese language and culture opens the way to different important fields and career pathways such as in international relations, education, government and community services, multinational corporations, media, communications, tourism, interpreting, translation, legal and health services as well as management and research.
5. Chinese has a written tradition going back 3,000 years and is the world's oldest continuous literate civilisation. Studying Chinese can introduce you to one of the world's great civilisations and literatures.
6. China is rapidly advancing on many fronts: scientific, technological and economic. It is likely that in ten years of time there will be many areas of knowledge available first, or only, in Chinese, and that for the first time in centuries those with knowledge only of English or other European languages will be locked out of some of the world's leading developments. Make sure that you are one of the few who stay on the inside track!
7. WSU Chinese holds a 20-year track-record of expertise and reputation in teaching and training Chinese. WSU helped more than 2000 students whose mother tongue is not Mandarin study it with enthusiasm and success. WSU helped thousands of heritage and international Chinese students to become bilingually and bi-culturally competent. ***If they all can learn it, so can you!***

What is special about WSU Chinese program:

Chinese is one of the great success stories of WSU's teaching offerings. WSU has 20 years of track record of teaching undergraduate Mandarin Chinese at all language levels. WSU's outstanding teaching is informed by internationally esteemed research in Bilingualism, Language Acquisition, Linguistics and communications, and innovative applications to language education. The strength of WSU Chinese teaching and research is recognised by the first joint Bilingualism Research Lab @WSU-JNU between Australia and China in Chinese and Bilingualism studies. The excellence of our Chinese academic staff has been acknowledged by the highly prestigious Australian Government Office of Learning and Teaching awards in both 2009 and 2012. The excellence of the students who study can be measured by their success in the Chinese Bridge competition (The "Chinese Bridge" Chinese Proficiency Competition is a large-scale international contest for Foreign College students). Over the past seven years a WSU student has either won or been one of the top three finalists in the event, reflecting the consistent high performance of the students and of the Chinese programme. Studying a language as different as Chinese can be daunting, but with our caring and supportive program we set our students up to win, and they do.

In order to provide students with in-country learning opportunities, Exchange Programs with Chinese universities and short in-country Winter or Summer Camp studies are offered at various levels of the Chinese Studies program, both in undergraduate and postgraduate studies, thanks to generous support of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council (Qiaoban), China and arrangements with Jinan (Guangzhou), Xiamen and other Universities.

MEDIA COVERAGE

WSU achievements in Chinese Language Teaching, Learning and Training as well as Bilingualism related studies have attracted significant public attention. Media coverage includes SBS TV, TVS TV, Hong Kong (Australia) TVB TV; People's TV, SBS Radio, 2RC Radio, the important China's news report on Xinhua News agent, Australian newspapers "*The Australian*", 4 Australian Chinese Newspapers and 23 global web news.

Chinese language program:

- Different students have different amounts of space available in their degree for study. Our Chinese language program enables students to study Chinese as a major, sub-major or elective. The program is open to all WSU students and students from other institutions, and is offered on multiple campuses of WSU.
- Our Chinese language program allows students to start their study of Chinese language at WSU from the level which is most appropriate to their own current language proficiency level. New students can start either from zero proficiency or at a post-HSC entry level or at near-native level.
- The English-speaking world is still working out the best way to teach Chinese. That is why our Chinese language programme is strongly research-based, enabling us to constantly renew our teaching methods.
- Apart from Chinese language learning, units such as the study of language, cognition and culture, literature and films, Traditional Thoughts and contemporary China will provide a broader knowledge base for students to understand China and its language and culture: to forge links between the West and the East, which are crucial for effective communication.
- Your best chance to get really fluent in Chinese will come by spending time in China itself. That is why our Chinese language program provides great opportunities for students to participate in activities that sharpen their language skills and develop relationship and an appreciation for Chinese culture and

civilisation. We offer multiple international exchange programs in China, providing exchange opportunities for our students to study Chinese in China for one or two semesters, or to participate in summer or winter camps co-organised by WSU and leading universities in China. Students have an opportunity to obtain Scholarships from our partners such as the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council (Qiaoban), PRC, our partner universities or our community donors to attend the in-country study.

- Our students have also been successful in winning Chinese Government Scholarships, or our partner universities' Scholarships to support their study in China, either at our partner universities such as Jinan University (Guangzhou), Xiamen University, Beijing Foreign Studies University in China or other best universities.
- Students can also pursue a combined major or a double major. Popular combinations include: Chinese with Education, International Studies, Economics and Financial Studies, Law, Media, Social Studies, or Computing.
- WSU language graduates have many opportunities to pursue further studies and research in languages, Linguistics, Applied Linguistics, Language Teaching as well as Interpreting and Translation postgraduate and PhD degrees.

Opportunities

Awards

- Li Jinguang Excellence Award for Chinese Language (Non-Background Student)
- Li Jinguang Excellence Award for Chinese Language (Background/Heritage Student)

Scholarships

- Short Winter or Summer in-country camp study

For further information, please contact

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