

## Introduction to the ‘Chinese Bridge’ Competition & the UK Finals

The ‘Chinese Bridge’- Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students is a large-scale international contest organised by Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban). Since its launch in 2002, this annual event has attracted more than 300,000 college students from over 80 countries, of which more than 1,100 have been invited to China to attend the semi-finals and finals. The ‘Chinese Bridge’ has become an important platform for international college students to learn more about the Chinese language and culture. It is a bridge of understanding that links China to young people worldwide.

The ‘Chinese Bridge’ competition is carried out in diversified forms, which includes tests of students’ Chinese language proficiency, knowledge of China, Chinese cultural skills and comprehensive abilities. Language and culture could be communicated in a variety of ways through performances on the stage: Chinese kungfu, taichi, paper-cutting, calligraphy, painting, Chinese instruments playing, singing and dancing etc. Contestants will have the opportunities to showcase their understanding of the Chinese literature and culture with their own talents. To attract a more diverse range of candidates, in addition to the Grand, First, Second and Third Prizes, the Competition Committee has also set up a series of special awards for individuals, such as Best Talent Show, Best Eloquence, Best Creativity & Best Knowledgeable, etc.

During the past decades, twelve Selection Contests have been held in the UK, one for each year. Winners are then invited to the semi- finals and finals in China, with the chances of winning scholarships to further their studies of Chinese in the country where it originated. Beyond the competitions, this event also brings unforgettable experience to the participants. They get together in China, making new friends, widening horizons, sharing knowledge and expertise in Chinese studying.

In 2010, British Contestant Steward Edward Johnson has won the worldwide Top Prize--Outstanding Award at the 9th ‘Chinese Bridge’ Competition Final held in Changsha, China. In 2011, 2012 and 2013, all the British contestants invited to China for the semi-finals and finals have achieved excellent results, which have greatly inspired the Youth Chinese learners in the UK.

The 13<sup>th</sup> UK Final Competition will be held in London on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014, organised by Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban) UK Office. Talented students from colleges and universities all over the country will be on stage to impress you with their passion and knowledge of the Chinese language and culture. All are welcome!

**The Organising Committee of the 13<sup>th</sup> ‘Chinese Bridge’ Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students-the UK 2014 Competition  
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