Mandarin Excellence Programme Year 8 Intensive Learning: December Update

In the summer of 2018 and 2019 Year 8 students participating in the Mandarin Excellence Programme will be take part in a two-week residential study course in China. The intensive Chinese language study programme will allow students to study, experience China and practise their acquired language skills.

The Mandarin Excellence Programme intensive learning courses will be delivered in partnership with Confucius Institute Headquarters in China, also known as Hanban.

# What will the courses involve?

The courses will consist of intensive linguistic and cultural programmes, including an average of four hours of intensive language study per day. Over the course of the two weeks, this will total at least 40 hours of intensive study.

During the intensive learning trip, ‘Shopping’ and ‘Travel in China’ will form the basis of in-depth and interactive teaching. Teaching materials will not be taken directly from Jinbu 2, and it is therefore advised that students have been introduced to Chapters 4 and 5 of Jinbu 2 before the trip takes place. This will ensure they are familiar with the content covered.

Outside of the classroom, students will take part in a range of cultural activities and events, allowing them to gain over 80 hours of intensive language learning in China in total.

# When and where will the courses take place?

In 2018 the course will take place between the window of Saturday 30th June and Saturday 14th July.

Three different cities will host the intensive learning course, with your school either being based in Beijing, Chengdu or Shanghai.

All of the teaching will take place on a University campus, with students from your school sleeping in accommodation provided by the University or in a local hotel. More information on the exact institution in which you will be based will follow in the coming weeks.

# How much will it cost?

The intensive learning courses are heavily subsidised by Hanban, meaning the majority of the costs incurred in China will already be covered.

**Hanban will provide:**

* Accommodation on or near the campus where the classes will take place
* Three meals per day, in addition to refreshments
* Costs associated with any Hanban organised cultural activities and visits
* Internal travel costs faced in China for the duration of the intensive learning course. This includes travel to and from the airport, in addition to transportation that may be necessary to get students to and from classes

**Your school will need to pay for:**

* International flight costs, which have been confirmed at £757.97 per person
* Chinese visa costs for teachers and students (currently £151 per person)
* Insurance for teachers and students

The flights have been booked by the Mandarin Excellence Programme team, and schools will only need to pay the exact cost of the tickets (there will be no additional administration charges). All schools will receive a MEP intensive learning subsidy of £350 for each Year 8 student attending the intensive learning in China. This will be deducted directly from the cost of the flight, meaning **each student flight ticket will be charged at £407.97.**

Schools are able to decide how they will fund the remaining costs depending on the processes that suit their school. For example, you might want to consider using pupil premium, fundraising events or asking for a fixed contributions from parents or guardians of students participating in the programme.

All schools will be invoiced in early May for the final cost.

# How many staff from my school can attend?

Your students will need to be accompanied by a sufficient number of adults during their stay in China. A 10:1 student to teacher ratio is being applied by Hanban, with a minimum of 2 staff members attending from your school.

# Where can I find more information?

More information on the intensive learning visit to China will be communicated with schools over the coming months. A pre-departure briefing will be provided for teachers attending the trip before the students travel to China.

If you have further questions please email mandarinexcellence@ucl.ac.uk.