

Appendix 2: Internationally focussed Institutes and Confucius Institutes at Go8s

The following are examples of institutes across Go8 universities (in addition to the six Confucius Institutes):

- **Culture Bridge Institute:**

An independent, non-profit, public policy think tank with branches in several universities, including the University of Melbourne, ANU, UNSW Sydney and Monash. It aims to find best-practice solutions to cross-cultural interaction and integration issues in Australia.¹

- **Australian National University: ANU Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies**²

The Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies (Middle East & Central Asia) forms part of the ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences at The Australian National University. CAIS is Australia's premier location for studies in this field, with a high international standing and links with major counterparts in the Arab and Islamic world, as well as in North America and Europe.

- **Australian National University: Pacific Institute**³

The Pacific Institute serves as a hub connecting and promoting Pacific Studies research, teaching and training at ANU. It celebrates the remarkable engagements ANU staff and students have had with the peoples of the Pacific Islands over the past seven decades and how these interactions have helped shape our collective understanding of the region.

- **University of Queensland: Korean Studies Centre**⁴

Launched in January 2020, the Centre provides opportunities for strategic partnerships with Korean industry, government, and community groups. The Centre's goal is to foster research in Korean language, culture, history, society and more through a series of externally facing public events and activities. There is a research focus on Korean language, culture and communication through translation and interpreting.

- **University of Queensland: Ramsay Centre**⁵

In 2019, the University signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ramsay Centre to offer courses in Western Civilisation. Under the arrangement, the Ramsay Centre will fund 10 full-time equivalent academic staff to deliver the program including a Director, supported by two new professional staff, and 150 scholarships for high-achieving students with a keen interest in the liberal arts.

¹ <https://www.culturebridge.com.au/>

² <https://cais.cass.anu.edu.au/>

³ <https://pacificinstitute.anu.edu.au/>

⁴ <https://languages-cultures.uq.edu.au/article/2020/01/uq-launches-korean-studies-centre>

⁵ <https://www.uq.edu.au/news/article/2019/08/ramsay-centre-funded-western-civilisation-program-start-uq-2020> / <https://future-students.uq.edu.au/study/programs/bachelor-advanced-humanities-honours-2414/western-civilisation-wscivy2414>

- **University of Sydney:** United States Studies Centre⁶

The United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney is a research centre dedicated to the rigorous analysis of American foreign policy, economics, politics, and culture. The Centre is a national resource that builds Australia's awareness of the dynamics shaping America – and critically – their implications for Australia.

- **University of Sydney:** China Studies Centre⁷

Established in 2011, the China Studies Centre is multidisciplinary University centre, which today has over 300 academic members, in addition to student members and associates, active across 19 disciplines. The China Studies Centre aims to:

- Stimulate multidisciplinary enquiry relative to China
- Help to identify and address key contemporary issues as they develop in China
- Support University students and staff whose academic activity furthers our understanding of China and the Sinophone world (including Taiwan, Hong Kong, overseas Chinese)
- Be a gateway to comprehensive knowledge about China for government, business and civil society organisations
- Improve the quality of public debate about China and increase outreach to Australian and Chinese societies.

- **University of Sydney:** Sydney Southeast Asia Centre⁸

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre builds on the expertise of and facilitates collaborations between over 400 University of Sydney academics who specialise in Southeast Asia. From business to education, health, law, and veterinary science, the Centre works to make sure Australia and the region develop together to face the challenges of the 21st century. Its innovative approach reflects Southeast Asia's rich diversity and growing importance in the world's geopolitical landscape.

The Centre foster partnerships and collaboration between researchers and practitioners working on critical real-world Southeast Asia issues, such as economic and social reform, infectious diseases and the environment.

- **University of Western Australia:** Perth USAsia Centre⁹

The Perth USAsia Centre located at the University of Western Australia is a non-partisan, not-for-profit institution seeking to strengthen relationships and strategic thinking between Australia, the Indo-Pacific, and the USA. The Centre is a leading think tank focusing on geopolitical issues, policy development and building a strategic affairs community across government, business, and academia. Since the Centre's inception they have collaborated with over 150 different partners to host 580 events across 19 cities in 8 countries, engaging a world-class community of over 16,500 attendees.

⁶ <https://www.ussc.edu.au/>

⁷ <https://www.sydney.edu.au/china-studies-centre/>

⁸ <https://www.sydney.edu.au/sydney-southeast-asia-centre/>

⁹ <https://perthusasia.edu.au/about-us>

- **University of Western Australia:** Centre for Muslim States and Societies¹⁰

The Centre for Muslim States and Societies is committed to conducting research that provides a better understanding of the beliefs and practices of Muslims in the Indian Ocean Rim countries and their interaction with global trends and narratives in other regions.

- **University of Melbourne:** National Centre for Contemporary Islamic Studies¹¹

The National Centre for Contemporary Islamic Studies (NCCIS) aims to advance knowledge and understanding of the rich traditions and modern complexities of Islam. Its research, teaching and community engagement agenda aims to be at the forefront of responding to Australian and regional needs. Centre staff provide expertise to government, national and international organisations on matters related to contemporary Islam.

Case Study: Risk management and the Confucius Institute at the University of Melbourne¹²

As with 13 other universities around Australia, and 541 globally in 162 countries, the University of Melbourne hosts a Confucius Institute (CI).

The University's involvement in the Confucius Institute has delivered positive outcomes including:

- High-quality provision of public-access Chinese language and cultural programs;
- Training and advice, enabling the University to effectively engage with Chinese stakeholders both in Australia and Greater China;
- A valuable ongoing relationship with Nanjing University, one of China's top tier universities; and
- A strong program of cultural and linguistic events for the wider community and valuable engagement with the Chinese-Australian community.

History

In 2006, the University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the global Confucius Centre Headquarters (the "Hanban", a division of the Chinese Ministry of Education) for the establishment and operation of a Confucius Institute (CI or "the Institute") in partnership with Nanjing University. The MOUs and then agreements with the Hanban and Nanjing University were renewed over several years, most recently in 2019 to reflect new obligations of the University of Melbourne including under the *Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme (FITS) Act*.

In 2020, the Chinese government reorganised the management of Confucius Institutes globally, passing responsibility from the Hanban to the Centre for Language Education and Cooperation (CLEC) and the Chinese International Education Foundation (Foundation) as well as expanding the role played by the university partner. The University has recently concluded successor agreements governing the operation of our CI with those organisations and updated their agreement with Nanjing University.

Governance

At Melbourne, there are clear boundaries between the University's academic and research activities and the current activities of the Confucius Institute. There is effective day-to-day management of the

¹⁰ <https://www.uwa.edu.au/able/research/centre-for-muslim-states-and-societies>

¹¹ <https://arts.unimelb.edu.au/national-centre-for-contemporary-islamic-studies>

¹² Provided by the University of Melbourne

CI by the University (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, International; the Assistant Deputy Vice Chancellor International (China) and the CEO of Asialink).

A University Executive Management Committee which provides oversight of the CI includes representatives of three faculties and meets biannually. A Joint Management Committee with representation from the University and Nanjing University meets annually to discuss broad directions for the Institute. Limited funding is provided by the University of Melbourne and Nanjing University, with equivalent, reciprocal annual grants.

The CI complies with Australian laws, education quality standards and principles of academic freedom.

The agreements and management of the CI at Melbourne are premised on the need for the University to ensure:

- The University's institutional autonomy and control of curriculum and standards;
- Transparency of all CI agreements and programs, particularly to government agencies with regulatory oversight under the FITS Act and other Commonwealth legislation;
- Control by the University over finances, decision making, programs and their evaluation, and staff activities; and
- Full compliance with all relevant Australian Government legislation, policy, and procedures.

The Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme (FITS) Act 2018

When the *FITS Act* came into force in December 2018, the agreements between the University and Hanban, and with Nanjing University gave rise to relationships that could *prima facie* appear as potentially registrable under the Scheme.

Subsequently in 2019, two separate reviews looked at the activities of the CI and applicability of the *FITS Act*. This included an internal analysis conducted by the University and the provision of formal external legal advice. Both reviews found that the activities of the CI at Melbourne *do not* fall within the type of activities that are registerable under the *FITS Act*. In mid-2019, following briefings on the University's risk assessment, due diligence and compliance with the *FITS Act*, **that assessment was confirmed by relevant Australian Government agencies.**

Risk Management

In addition to ensuring full compliance with the *FITS Act*, the University has established a comprehensive approach to monitoring, managing, and evaluating CI activities and ensuring ongoing legal compliance and addressing foreign interference considerations.

Ongoing risk management measures taken by the University include the following:

- All CI personnel have received training on the *FITS Act* obligations and have been provided with guidance for consistently assessing whether CI activities may require registration;
- All CI employees must comply with University policies, including the Code of Conduct and the Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech policies, and all Australian Government legislation and policies at all times;
- The University has commissioned independent reviews of Chinese language teaching materials used by the Confucius Institute which found the materials were balanced and appropriate for an apolitical language course;

- The University conducts training on the *FITS Act* for secondary schools participating in the Confucius Classroom program attended by principals, heads of Chinese teaching and teaching assistants provided through Hanban;
- The University hosts regular Confucius Institute Network meetings to share best practice around the *FITS Act*. These have been attended in some cases by relevant Australian government officials;
- The University has undertaken to and does provide the terms of its agreements with CI partners to any interested party on request; and
- The University Executive Management Committee with oversight of the CI undertakes a biannual comprehensive risk review of the CI and its operations.

Case Study: The Confucius Institute at the University of Sydney¹³

The University of Sydney launched the Confucius Institute in 2008 as a collaboration with the Confucius Institute Headquarters in China (Hanban) and in partnership with Fudan University, Shanghai.¹⁴ The Institute's purpose is to enhance mutual understanding between the people of Australia and China by providing Chinese language, cultural education and related education services to the community on a non-award basis.

Governance

The Institute is overseen by a Governing Board chaired by the University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), which approves and monitors its activities.¹⁵ The Institute's teaching activities are not part of the University's accredited curriculum and it is not involved in any decisions around research, curriculum or the general operation of the University. The University's teaching of Chinese language and culture to students and members of the community is delivered through the Department of Chinese Studies in the School of Languages and Cultures.

Under the current agreement (2018-2023) Hanban provides the Institute with project funding for Chinese language, culture programs and related activities. In 2019 and 2020 the Institute received \$209,788 and \$191,516 respectively from Hanban. The University also provides in-kind support such as office space and operational support. A significant proportion of the Institute's running costs is covered by revenue generated from its language and culture programs. Due to the recent restructuring of Hanban the University is renegotiating the agreement with Fudan University. The existing agreement with Hanban will be terminated, and the University will work with Fudan in a bilateral partnership to deliver teaching services to the local community. The amount of funding the University requests from Fudan to support the activities of the Institute will, as a result, be greatly reduced.

The Sydney Confucius Institute is run by an Executive Director, who is employed by the University of Sydney, is a permanent Australia resident and has lived in Australia for over 30 years. The University also employs local administration staff and teachers. Their recruitment and appointments follow the University's standard procedures and are merit-based. None of these staff have agreements or contracts with Hanban. The partner university in China – Fudan University – makes an initial recommendation for a deputy director and one to two Chinese language teachers. Following an

¹³ Provided by the University of Sydney

¹⁴ <https://www.sydney.edu.au/confucius-institute/>

¹⁵ <https://www.sydney.edu.au/confucius-institute/about-us/our-board.html>

interview process, the Institute's Executive Director makes the final decision on whether to accept them and then supervises their performance. The University's new agreement with Fudan will make clear that the salaries of all local staff are paid for by the University of Sydney. The salaries of the Fudan Deputy Director and teachers will be paid for by Fudan University. The Fudan staff are subject to the laws of Australia and The University of Sydney's applicable policies.

Review

In October 2020, the Board commissioned a detailed review of the Chinese language classes offered by the Institute, which was conducted by senior academic staff from the University's Department of Chinese Studies. The review raised no concerns about the suitability of the course material, which includes textbooks and materials used in Chinese language courses throughout the sector, and found no evidence of foreign influence activities. To further strengthen the academic approval process for course material, the review recommended the formation of a curriculum sub-committee under the Board to oversee and approve Institute teaching material, as well as to provide guidance and recommendations for curriculum development. As a result, the University is establishing a Management Committee, chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement) to oversee and approve the Institute's teaching material, as well as to provide guidance and recommendations for curriculum development. Members will include the Chair of the Department of Chinese Studies and a representative from the University's Office of General Counsel.

When the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Act became law, in late 2018, and again after the Act was amended in early 2019, the University reviewed the Institute's operations and activities to determine whether it needed to be registered with the Attorney-General's Department. After careful consideration, the University concluded that registration was not required because the Institute was not engaged in 'communication activity' as defined by the Act. Since then, through the Institute's Board, the University has continued to monitor the Institute's activities to assess whether registration under the transparency scheme is required. The University remains of the view that the Institute's activities do not meet the criteria for registration under the transparency scheme.

In June 2020 the University received correspondence from Hanban advising on its decision to establish a non-governmental, charitable foundation to support Confucius institutes globally. Details followed in July 2020 and as a result the University has expedited negotiations through Fudan University to establish a new agreement governing the Confucius Institute well in advance of the current agreement's expiry in 2023. In August 2020 the University complied fully with a transparency notice under the Act issued by the Attorney-General's Department. The University has not heard further from the Department and continues negotiations with Fudan University towards a new agreement that is acceptable to both universities.