



So you want to teach Mandarin?

We are here to help you



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Welcome

It's great that you want to teach Mandarin in Scotland.

Whether you are a fluent speaker or an experienced learner, this booklet is designed to help you begin your journey towards teaching Mandarin in Scotland's schools.

We are the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTC Scotland), the independent professional and regulatory body for teachers in Scotland. Key to our functions is the registration of teachers who work in Scotland's schools. We are also here to support teachers' career-long professional learning and to encourage high-quality teaching through our Professional Standards, which outline what it means to become, to be and to grow as a teacher in Scotland.

We are committed to expanding diversity in the profession so that it is more representative of Scottish society.

This guide has been created in partnership with the Scotland China Education Network (SCEN), which brings together individuals, national agencies and associations keen to promote the teaching and learning of Chinese language and culture in Scottish schools.



Why should I become a Teacher of Mandarin in Scotland?

Teaching in Scotland is highly rewarding. Sharing your passion for your subject can be exhilarating and, as well as growing knowledge, teachers can really change lives for the better while working in a lively, diverse environment.

What are my employment prospects?

All teachers in Scotland must be registered with GTC Scotland. There are a number of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching qualifications in Scotland. The successful completion of a recognised teaching qualification leads to Provisional Registration with GTC Scotland. After a successful probation period, Full Registration with GTC Scotland is gained.

Scottish teaching qualifications are highly regarded in the rest of the UK and around the world. The vast majority of PGDE Mandarin graduates secure teaching posts in Scotland and UK schools, where there is significant demand for candidates with GTC Scotland registration. Some graduates teach overseas, enter other areas of the education sector, or pursue further academic study.

In what sectors can I teach?

Mandarin is a growing language in Scottish schools. Teachers of Mandarin work with young people from approximately 12 to 18 years of age in secondary schools and may also have the opportunity to work with specific learners in other contexts such as younger children learning Mandarin in primary schools.



Support for Teachers of Mandarin

There are support networks in place for teachers of Mandarin once they qualify. The GTC Scotland team is always available to assist with any enquiries. Resources and career-long professional learning (CLPL) are provided by the [Scottish National Centre for Languages](#) (SCILT) and [Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools](#) (CISS). The [Scottish Qualifications Authority](#) (SQA) has a large suite of qualifications for Cantonese, Mandarin (Simplified) and Mandarin (Traditional) Subjects and provides support on the assessment and quality assurance of these qualifications. Education Scotland also has a range of resources on the [National Improvement Hub](#).

GTC Scotland publishes a magazine called [Teaching Scotland](#), specifically for teaching professionals in Scotland, four times a year. The magazine is full of the latest news, shared practice from across the country and resources.



How do I qualify as a Teacher of Mandarin?

There are an increasing number of routes into teaching Mandarin. The one that you choose will depend on several factors, including your previous qualifications, personal circumstances and, importantly, your current linguistic skills.

To become a teacher, you will need a recognised teaching qualification as well as a relevant undergraduate degree.

Why a teaching qualification?

All teachers in Scotland must be registered with GTC Scotland by law, to teach in schools in Scotland. Registration requires individuals to have a recognised teaching qualification.

Currently, the main route to GTC Scotland Registration for Teachers of Mandarin is through the Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) which requires rigorous placement experience and university learning. Students studying a PGDE at a Scottish higher education institution are expected to meet the [Professional Standard for Provisional Registration](#) (SPR). Having attained the SPR, they will continue their professional learning journey by demonstrating the [Professional Standard for Full Registration](#) (SFR) during their probation (induction) period.

For entry to the PGDE in Secondary Education for Mandarin you will need 80 SCQF credit points in Chinese language and literature, as well as the following:

- Experience of having lived for six months (blocks of at least three months) in a Chinese speaking country/region and of having fully taken part in the language and culture of the relevant language.
- Competence in speaking in Mandarin and/or Cantonese as well as writing in Chinese (Simplified) and/or Chinese (Traditional).
- A National Qualification in English at SCQF level 6 (e.g. Higher Grade) or an accepted alternative.
- A National Qualification in Mathematics at SCQF level 5 (e.g. National 5) or an accepted alternative.
- Native speakers of Mandarin who have finished an undergraduate modern languages degree in their own language which meets the entry requirements set above may enrol on the PGDE programme in order to teach their native language.

Initial Teacher Education (ITE) providers will arrange an interview and use other assessment tools to establish your abilities in the Chinese languages and decide upon your suitability to enrol on their programmes.

*Further information about the minimum entry requirements can be found in the [Memorandum on Entry Requirements to Programmes of Initial Teacher Education \(ITE\) in Scotland](#).

Course funding

The tuition fees charged will vary depending on your nationality and the country where you live. Tuition fees for eligible students from Scotland are paid by the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS). You can check what funding you might be eligible for by visiting the [SAAS website](#).

Teacher Induction Scheme

GTC Scotland administers the Teacher Induction Scheme (TIS) on behalf of the Scottish Government. To be eligible for TIS, student teachers must have successfully met the assessment criteria for the professional placement and passed the academic components of the PGDE programme. GTC Scotland grants students who have met the SPR, Provisional Registration. This

allows student teachers to proceed to their probation year, during which they will work towards demonstrating the SFR. Student teachers then proceed to their probation year.

Full eligibility criteria for TIS can be found on the [In2Teaching website](#). If you are not eligible for a place on the TIS or wish to complete your probation a different way, you can demonstrate that you meet the SFR via the [Flexible Route](#) instead.

How do I apply?

You should apply via [UCAS](#) for an ITE programme, before the January deadline. However, many of the ITE programmes often accept applications up until the start of the programme so it is worth contacting the university and the Mandarin course leader specifically to see if applications are still being accepted.

Read our [So you want to teach in Scotland?](#) booklet, to find out more about becoming a teacher in Scotland and registering with GTC Scotland.

Available routes into Mandarin teaching*

Institution	Age range	Post Degree study	Start Date	Total Length of Study
University of Aberdeen	Secondary	PGDE Secondary Education (Mandarin) UCAS Code 2D7T	August	1 year
University of Edinburgh	Secondary	PGDE Secondary Education: Modern Foreign Languages (Chinese) UCAS Code T1X1	August	1 year
University of Strathclyde	Secondary	PGDE Secondary Education: Modern Languages (Mandarin) 7X64	August	1 year

*Correct as of 1 March 2022

I qualified as a teacher outside Scotland – how do I become a Teacher of Mandarin?

We welcome qualified teachers from around the world.

As with teachers who have qualified in Scotland, you will be required to register with GTC Scotland before taking up a teaching post in a Scottish school. You will need to meet the same requirements for registration as teachers qualified in Scotland. This would be an acceptable degree (or equivalent

qualification), a comparable teaching qualification and (for Full Registration) relevant teaching experience. GTC Scotland assesses applications from teachers who qualified outside Scotland and more information can be accessed via the [GTC Scotland website](#).



Useful contacts

The General Teaching Council for Scotland
www.gtcs.org.uk

Scotland's National Centre for Languages
scilt.org.uk

Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools
[www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/
confuciusinstituteforscotlandsschools](http://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/confuciusinstituteforscotlandsschools)

The Confucius Institute for Scotland in the University of Edinburgh
www.confuciusinstitute.ac.uk

The Confucius Institute of the University of Aberdeen
www.abdn.ac.uk/confucius

In2Teaching
in2teaching.org.uk

SAAS
saas.gov.uk

Scottish Funding Council
www.sfc.ac.uk

Skills Development Scotland
skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk

Teach in Scotland
teachinscotland.scot

UCAS
ucas.com

Scotland China Education Network (SCEN)
scen.info



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