



Annual Report 2019

Confucius Institute at Tufts University



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INSTITUTE

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2019 Annual Report

Confucius Institute at Tufts University

February 1, 2020
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I. Introduction

The Confucius Institute at Tufts University (CITU) was officially launched on June 24, 2015. It is a non-profit educational collaboration between Tufts University and Beijing Normal University (BNU), the executive institution of CI Headquarters, also known as Hanban, i.e., the Office of Chinese Language Council International. The Institute aims to increase mutual understanding among people in China and in the United States through its effort to promote and support Chinese language and culture instruction and programming, and to facilitate and strengthen educational and cultural exchange and cooperation between the two institutions and the two countries.

CITU's programs are designed to increase Chinese language and culture understanding among students, faculty and staff at Tufts University and among residents in the local communities. Programming is at the direction and approval of the Institute's Program Committee, which is chaired by Samuel Thomas, Dean of Academic Affairs at the School of Arts and Sciences. Under the direct supervision of Dean Thomas and the guidance of the CI Program Committee, Dr. Mingquan Wang, CITU Director, a Tufts employee and faculty member with more than 30 years of service at Tufts, works with his CI staff to plan and implement CITU programs.

Tufts' students and faculty and local communities have benefited from the Institute's service in Chinese language teaching and learning, lectures on Chinese culture, assistance in summer programs for BNU and Tufts students, and scholarships for Tufts students to study in China. The Institute has made valuable learning and cultural contributions to the university and local communities and has enhanced our students' exposure to global perspectives.

The following is a brief summary of what CITU did in 2019. With six staff members (CI director, CI staff assistant and 4 members from our partner institutions in China), CITU worked diligently as a team and made significant contributions in the following five areas.

1. Chinese Language Teaching
2. Chinese Culture Programming
3. Chinese Language Teacher Training
4. Conferences & Lectures on Chinese Language & Culture
5. Study Abroad Programs

II. Chinese Language Teaching

CITU provides Chinese language teaching and tutoring services to Tufts students, faculty, staff, and residents from local communities.

A. Non-credit Classes

Both Beginning Chinese and Intermediate Chinese are offered for Tufts students, faculty, staff, and residents from local communities.

B. Language Tutoring Program

In addition to non-credit classes, CITU provides Chinese language tutoring service for students in the Chinese Program through conversation nights at the Chinese House, and through the one-on-one sessions at the Confucius Institute.

C. New Non-credit Course *Better Pronunciation in Chinese*

CITU offered a non-credit Chinese phonetics course for students in the Tufts Chinese Program during the spring and fall semesters of 2019. The course was taught by CITU instructor Prof. Sun, together with CITU graduate intern Dan Li as teaching assistant. The course was designed to improve students' pronunciation in Chinese. Feedback from students on the three classes that ran in 2019 has been very positive.

D. Workshop for I-Center Staff on Chinese Pinyin and Chinese Names

On March 15, 2019, Prof. Sun held a workshop on Chinese Pinyin and Chinese Names for staff in the Tufts International Center. The workshop helped participants recognize Chinese students' names, pronounce them correctly, and address them appropriately.

E. Lectures on Chinese Language Learning

In addition to lectures on language learning offered by CI instructors, CI also works with the Chinese Program to organize similar lectures by guest speakers on Chinese language learning. On March 27, 2019, Prof. Lunghua Hu from Brown University was invited to give a presentation *How to Improve Your Chinese Pronunciation*.

III. Chinese Culture Programming

CITU provides a rich variety of culture programming throughout the year, enriching the experience of our students and residents in our local communities. In 2019, CITU organized and participated in various cultural activities, including the following events.

A. Belmont Chinese New Year Gala (1/27/2019)

On January 27, 2019, the Belmont Chinese American Association's third annual Chinese New Year gala was held at the Chenery Middle School. CITU participated in the event, with our Chinese musical instrument and Chinese paper cutting demos attracting many visitors. The event gave

attendees a taste of what the Chinese New Year Festival looks and feels like and helped foster understanding of Chinese culture.

B. Chinese New Year Reception at Tufts (2/6/2019)

On February 6, 2019, the Chinese New Year Reception for Tufts Chinese Program students was held jointly by the Chinese Program and CI in the Laminan Lounge of Olin Center. This event is a great opportunity for students in the Chinese Program to experience the Chinese festival and engage in lively conversations with the Chinese Program faculty and the CI staff.

C. TCSSA Chinese New Year Gala (2/9/2019)

On February 9, 2019, the TCSSA Chinese New Year Gala at Tufts University was held in the Cohen Auditorium. CITU staff was invited to the event. Dr. Wang, Director of CITU, delivered the opening remarks, and offered his best wishes for the Chinese New Year to the audience on behalf of CITU. CITU staff also performed poetry recitals and Erhu solo at the event.

D. Dumpling Night at the Chinese House (2/21/2019)

On February 21, 2019, the Chinese Dumpling Night event was held by the Chinese Program, with assistance from CITU. Around 60 Tufts students attended the event and learned how to make dumplings. The event was a great opportunity for students to experience Chinese culture and practice speaking Chinese.

E. Global Tufts Week – Experience Chinese Culture (3/4/2019)

On March 4, 2019, CITU participated in the first annual Global Week at Tufts and hosted a Chinese culture event, **Experience Chinese Culture**, at the Alumnae Lounge. The event featured a professional Chinese music performance, Chinese cultural activities, and Chinese food. The event provided an opportunity for Tufts students to learn about and to have a better understanding of Chinese culture.

F. “Chinese Bridge” Chinese Proficiency Competition (5/4/2019)

On May 4, 2019, the 18th “Chinese Bridge” Chinese Proficiency Competition for college students in the northeast region was held at the Chinese Consulate General in New York. 20 contestants participated in the competition, which consisted of a speech and talent show. Judges were Chinese language teachers from the Greater New York areas. Gideon May from Tufts University won third prize. Special thanks go to Prof. Sun from CITU, who provided excellent coaching.

G. Tufts Chinese Program Fall Reception (10/1/2019)

On October 1, 2019, the Fall Reception for Tufts Chinese Program students was held jointly by the Chinese Program and CI in the Alumnae Lounge. The CITU staff and Dr. Xiaojing Feng from BNU performed traditional Chinese music at the event, one of the many highlights of the evening. The audience enjoyed the unique charm of Chinese folk music. CITU collaborates with the Tufts Chinese Program to provide students opportunities to learn about Chinese culture.

IV. Chinese Language Teacher Training

Local Chinese language teacher training is one of the key services CITU provides. Through its collaboration with the New England Chinese Language Teachers Association (NECLTA), CITU organizes and hosts several teacher training workshops each year in addition to the annual NECLTA conference. CITU also runs a K-12 CFL Leadership Institute at Tufts.

A. Teacher Training Workshops

Two to three times a year, CITU works with NECLTA to organize and host teacher training workshops at Tufts for K-16 Chinese language instructors. We invite well-known experts in the field to conduct these workshops. These workshops are well attended, with each drawing 30 to 40 participants.

B. NECLTA Spring Workshop (5/4/2019)

On May 4, 2019, CITU and NECLTA held the first spring workshop of the year for CFL teachers at Tufts. Star Lew, a Chinese teacher from Newton North High School, made a presentation on “Classroom Activity and Task Design.” Dr. Yu Wu, Assistant Professor of Chinese at the University of Rhode Island, gave a presentation titled “The Keys to Assessing Language Performance: Lessons Learned from Proficiency Guidelines.” The more than 50 Chinese teachers who attended the workshop said it was a great opportunity for them to communicate with their peers and improve their teaching skills.

C. NECLTA Fall Workshop (11/2/2019)

Chinese teachers at different levels (K-16) from different schools in the New England region attended the workshop. Yang Wang, senior lecturer of Chinese at Brown University, gave a presentation titled, “Developing Oral Narrative Skills for Upper-Intermediate and Advanced Level Students.” Yuzhe Wang, a Chinese teacher from Newton North High School and Ting Gao, a Chinese teacher from St. Johns Preparatory School, shared with participants their practical experience through their presentation “Flipped Classroom in K-12 Classrooms.” The workshop provided a platform for Chinese teachers in New England to exchange ideas and experiences in Chinese language teaching.

D. K-12 Chinese Teacher Leadership Institute

CITU also runs a Leadership Institute, which provides a series of seven training sessions for selected K-12 CFL teachers to fine-tune their teaching and professional skills in order to cultivate future leaders in the field. The objectives of the Institute are: 1) to deepen participants’ understanding of the latest best practices in K-12 CFL instruction, and 2) to develop participants’ presentational skills in conducting professional workshops. CITU has just completed its fourth Leadership Institute.

1. Graduation Ceremony of the 3rd Leadership Institute (4/27/2019)

On April 27th, 2019, the graduation ceremony of the 3rd K-12 CFL Leadership Institute took place in the Olin Center on the Tufts University Campus. Hosted by CITU, the Institute provides advanced training to Chinese language teachers and aims to cultivate leaders in the rapidly growing field of Chinese language education. 15 participants received the graduation certificates and expressed their satisfaction with the Institute which is helpful for their career development.

2. Opening Ceremony of the 4th Leadership Institute (11/2/2019)

On November 2nd, 2019, the CITU started its 4th K-12 CFL Leadership Institute. Seventeen Chinese teachers from the New England region attended the opening session. Dr. Wang, CI Director, extended a warm welcome to the participants and reiterated the importance of holding K-12 CFL Leadership workshops, which are designed to help teachers improve their teaching and enrich their practical skills. Dr. Yu-Lan Lin, who was the principal academic coach for the first three institutes, was once again invited to be the lead instructor for the institute. The participants greatly appreciated Dr. Lin's in-depth interpretation of teaching theory and interactive discussions with the trainees

V. Conferences and Lectures on Chinese Language and Culture

One of the strengths of CITU is its ability to leverage resources available through Tufts and BNU to facilitate academic exchange for faculty and professionals at Tufts, BNU, and other local institutions. CITU prioritizes organizing such events, including lectures and conferences on Chinese language and culture.

A. Lectures and Discussions

1. Cultural Issues in Chinese Language Courses (3/13/2019)

On March 13, 2019, Prof. Sun from CITU gave a talk on cultural issues related to Chinese language teaching at the Chinese Program Language Colloquium. In addition to discussing strategies for those issues, Prof. Sun gave people a comprehensive understanding of the Chinese curriculum at Chinese universities.

2. Lecture on Chinese Zither (4/23/2019)

On April 23, 2019, invited by Prof. Latour from Tufts Music Department, Dr. Xiaojing Feng from Beijing Normal University gave a lecture on Chinese zither for students taking the course **Music, Religion and Magic**. Students enjoyed this opportunity to get a close look at Chinese music and were fascinated by Feng's zither performance.

B. Language Conferences: Organizers

In 2019, CITU organized two large conferences on Chinese language pedagogy.

1. 15th International Conference on Chinese Language Pedagogy (6/28/2019 – 6/30/2019)

From June 28 to 30, 2019, the 15th International Conference on Chinese Language Pedagogy was held at Beijing Normal University. BNU and Tufts University sponsored this conference, which attracted 252 representatives from 15 countries all over the world. CITU Director Wang, Chair of the conference committee, delivered speeches at the opening and closing ceremony. Prof. Sun, CITU instructor, also presented a paper at the conference. The conference successfully promoted academic exchange and cooperation among teachers, scholars and institutions in the field of Chinese teaching.

第十五届国际汉语教学学术研讨会
2019.6.29



Group photo of conference participants, 6/28/2019.

2. 8th Annual New England Chinese Language Teaching Association Conference (10/5/2019)

On October 5, 2019, the 8th Annual New England Chinese Language Teaching Association Conference was held at Boston University; CITU was a co-sponsor of this conference. CITU Director Wang, Executive Director of NECLTA, presided over the conference. Prof. Xiaojing Feng from BNU and CITU graduate intern Dan Li gave a Chinese music performance. Prof. Sun shared a study on the application of game teaching method in overseas Chinese classrooms. The conference provided a platform for New England Chinese language teachers to exchange ideas on Chinese language teaching. More than 160 teachers attended the conference.



Group photo of conference participants, 10/5/2019.

C. Language Conferences: Presenters

The staff of the CITU participates in numerous exchanges on issues related to Chinese language teaching. CITU director and instructors have attended and made presentations at local, national and international conferences on Chinese language teaching.

1. 2019 Chinese Language Teachers Association (CLTA) Annual Conference (4/4/2019 – 4/7/2019)

From April 4 to 7, 2019, the 2019 CLTA annual conference was held in Seattle. It attracted more than 330 teachers and scholars from the United States, Canada, Asia, and Europe. Prof. Sun from CITU shared her research on Chinese culture curriculum design at the conference. Dr. Wang, director of CITU, was elected to serve on the CLTA board.

2. 12th Annual National Chinese Language Conference (5/9/2019 – 5/11/2019)

From May 9 to 11, 2019, hosted by the Asia Society and the College Board, the 12th annual National Chinese Language Conference was held at San Diego. Nearly 1,300 teachers, administrators, policymakers and exhibitors from across the U.S. and seven other countries participated. Prof. Sun from CITU shared her study on the application of game teaching method at the conference.

VI. Study Abroad Programs

CITU contributed to two study abroad programs for Tufts students in 2019.

A. 2019 CI Summer Program on Chinese Language and Culture at BNU (8/11– 8/24/2019)

CITU organized a two-week summer program on Chinese language and culture in China for Tufts students. The program was run by BNU, which offered Chinese language training, lectures on Chinese culture and cultural visits, both local and long distance. 14 Tufts students participated in this year's program.

B. BNU Philosophy Summer School (7/1-7/15/2019)

This summer school at BNU was designed for international college students and young faculty members to learn about Chinese culture, to understand China's contemporary situation, and to develop an interest in Chinese philosophy. CITU was successful in obtaining 3 full scholarships for Tufts students to participate in the 2019 summer program.

VII. Conclusion

CITU is proud of its 2019 accomplishments in (1) Chinese language teaching, (2) Chinese culture programming, (3) Chinese language teacher training, (4) Conferences and lectures on Chinese language and culture, and (5) Study abroad programs. With excellent leadership from Tufts administration and great support from members of our communities and our Chinese partner school BNU, CITU will continue its efforts to make valuable learning and cultural contributions to the university and local communities, and to enhance our students' exposure to global perspectives.

VIII. Appendix

Funds Received from Hanban for 2019 CITU Projects

Funds	Amount
Initial Fund for 2019 (Received on 1/2/2019)	\$10,000
Additional Fund for 2019 (Received on 10/21/2019)	\$27,930
Total Funds Received in 2019	\$37,930
Beginning Balance from Previous Year	\$51,833
Total Available Funds for 2019	\$89,763
Funds used in 2019	\$ (44,381)
Carryforward to Year 2020	\$45,382

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