

**From the Office of the Minister
DR CAOIMHE ARCHIBALD MLA**



Department for the

Economy

An Roinn

Geilleagair

www.economy-ni.gov.uk

Mr Timothy Gaston MLA
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX
Timothy.Gaston@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

Adelaide House
39-49 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8FD
02890 529333
Private.Office@economy-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: SUB-1018-2025

Date: 23 December 2025

Timothy a chara

AQW 37159/22-27

Further to my response to AQW 37159/22-27 please find attached a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between my Department and the Chinese Center for Language Education and Cooperation.

I am copying this letter to the Assembly Library so they can publish the attached MoU on the library's website.

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**DR CAOIMHE ARCHIBALD MLA
Minister for the Economy**

Cc: Assembly Library

**Agreement Between the Center for Language Education
and Cooperation and the Northern Ireland Department
for the Economy
on Cooperation in Chinese Language Education**

The Center for Language Education and Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the “Chinese Party”) and the Northern Ireland Department for Economy (hereinafter referred to as the “Northern Ireland Party”), collectively referred to as the “Parties,” have reached the following agreement through friendly consultations to promote people-to-people exchange and deepen cooperation in the field of education between the two countries, specifically in the field of Chinese language and cultural education.

Article 1

The Parties shall uphold the concept of friendly cooperation, adhere to the principles of equality and mutual benefit, and comply with the relevant laws and regulations of both countries in their collaboration on Chinese language and cultural education.

Article 2

The Parties have agreed to cooperate in the following areas:

1. In accordance with the requirements of the Northern Ireland Party, the Chinese Party may assist the Northern Ireland Party in relation to dispatching Chinese language teaching experts.

2. Based on the Northern Ireland Party's needs, the Chinese Party shall select and send Chinese language teachers and volunteers to teach in Northern Ireland. The specific number of teachers and volunteers will be determined through consultation by both parties.

3. Aligning with the Northern Ireland Party's needs, the Chinese Party shall assist in training local Chinese language teachers. The Chinese Party shall support the establishment of Chinese language departments, programs, or training programs at Ulster University through the Confucius Institute for Northern Ireland at Ulster University. The Northern Ireland Party shall ensure that relevant information is available to students and young teachers on pursuing International Chinese Language Education degrees in China. The Chinese Party shall offer a certain number of International Chinese Language Teachers Scholarship positions to Northern Ireland students.

4. Aligning with the Northern Ireland Party's needs, the Chinese Party shall send experts to provide or adapt existing Chinese language textbooks and readers, or assist in developing localized Chinese

language textbooks and readers. The Chinese Party shall also actively employ internet-based and digital technologies to enrich the local Chinese language teaching resources.

5. The Chinese Party shall assist in monitoring and evaluating the quality of Chinese language instruction.

6. The Northern Ireland Party shall continue to support the delivery of academic research at Ulster University, including appropriate academic research on Chinese language teaching.

Article 3

The Confucius Institute for Northern Ireland at Ulster University shall serve as the implementing agency for the Northern Ireland Party.

To implement this agreement, the implementing agency of the Northern Ireland Party shall sign an implementation agreement with the implementing agency of the Chinese Party.

The implementing agencies of both Parties shall each designate liaison officers and establish a communication mechanism to enhance coordination and alignment of their work.

Article 4

To implement this agreement, the proposed implementation agreement should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. As needed, the Parties shall jointly provide necessary support in kind for the cooperation;
2. The Parties shall collaborate to protect intellectual property rights;
3. The Parties shall jointly be responsible for the authenticity of information exchanged during the cooperation and the quality of teaching materials and equipment.

Article 5

This agreement shall come into effect on the date of signing and remain valid for five (5) years. The Parties may negotiate the renewal of the agreement ninety (90) days before its expiration.

The termination of this agreement shall not affect the continued implementation of programs and plans that have already been initiated based on the terms of this agreement and have not been completed at the time of termination.

This agreement is signed on the 20th day of May, 2025. The agreement is executed in duplicate, with each Party holding one original copy. Each copy is written in both Chinese and English, with both versions being equally authentic.