



WHY LEARN A LANGUAGE?

As our world becomes increasingly connected and interdependent, it has become necessary for students to learn the skills to effectively communicate with others around the world.

Learning a language benefits students in the following ways:

Academic and Intellectual Achievement

- Students have higher test scores in reading, language and mathematics
- Students score higher in both verbal and non-verbal intelligence
- Students are better in divergent thinking tasks and in memory ability and attention span

Post-Secondary Admission

- Language courses may be used to meet the Alberta High School Diploma requirements. Up to 25 credits of the 100 credits required for a high school diploma can be earned in one or more second language
- A 30-level language course is accepted for university entrance and is a requirement for some faculties and programs. It may also help students meet the requirements for the Rutherford scholarship
- Students can continue to study Chinese in many post-secondary institutions

Enhanced First Language Skills

- Students' first language skills are strengthened in areas of reading, vocabulary development, grammar and communication skills

Cultural Understanding

- Students display enhanced cultural sensitivity, gain cross-cultural skills, and are better able to adapt to varying cultural contexts

Greater Career Opportunities

- There is a growing need for qualified speakers of languages other than English in areas of science, technology, medicine and global commerce



EDUCATOR SUPPORT

Alberta school authorities benefit from the expertise and assistance of the Special Language Advisor for Chinese Language and Culture through an agreement between **Alberta Education** and the **Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban)** in China.

The Chinese Language Advisor:

- Leads professional development sessions with Chinese language teachers
- Helps develop and maintain strong relationships with Alberta schools that offer Chinese language and culture programs
- Provides support to Alberta's Chinese language teachers

For more information, please contact the Chinese Language Advisor, at www.education.alberta.ca/mandarin



For more information about International Education in Alberta Education, please visit: www.intled.alberta.ca

Phone: 780-427-2035

Learn Chinese





DID YOU KNOW?



- Alberta and northeastern Chinese province Heilongjiang have been sister provinces since 1981
- China is Alberta's second largest trading partner
- There are a number of Alberta Accredited International Schools operating in China
- Several Alberta schools have twinning relationships with schools in China



PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Chinese language programing includes:

- Bilingual programs, where in addition to Language Arts (Kindergarten to Grade 12), Chinese is used for instruction in other subjects up to 50% of the school day; and
- Language and Culture courses, where Chinese is studied to develop communication skills, intercultural and strategic competence and an appreciation of Chinese culture

For more information on programs of study for international languages, visit www.education.alberta.ca/programs-of-study.



WHERE CAN YOU LEARN CHINESE?

A number of school authorities offer Chinese language and culture programming. Contact your local school authority for more information, at www.education.alberta.ca/alberta-education/school-authority-index.



STUDENT, EDUCATOR, AND SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Exchanges & Funding

- Students can participate in a one semester reciprocal exchange with the International School of Macau, which is also an Alberta Accredited School
www.education.alberta.ca/exchange-programs/student-exchanges/
- Overseas Chinese Teacher Training Program – Teachers can apply to participate in training programs at universities across China
english.hanban.org/node_9903.htm
- Various scholarships and bursaries are available
www.studentaid.alberta.ca

School Partnerships

- School twinnings or partnerships between Alberta schools and schools abroad bring an international experience into the classroom and enable students to interact with others from around the world
www.education.alberta.ca/international-education/school-partnerships/



LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY EXAMS

Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) – Chinese Proficiency Test

- Launched by Hanban, the Chinese National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, the HSK is a standardized and internationally recognized examination that tests the Chinese proficiency levels of non-native speakers
- Participants with outstanding test results can win a scholarship for short-term language study in China
- Visit english.hanban.org/node_7581.htm for more information



PROGRAM RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters provides Chinese language and cultural teaching resources and services worldwide. www.hanban.org (available in different languages)

The **Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association (ECBEA)** is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the learning and understanding of the Chinese language. www.ecbea.org

As a non-profit organization, the **Confucius Institute in Edmonton (CIE)** is a part of the global network of institutions dedicated to strengthening the educational, cultural and economic ties between China and Canada. The organization provides cultural support to school boards across the province. www.confuciusedmonton.ca

