



University  
of Exeter



# Evening language programme 2024/25

## Course title: Mandarin Chinese -Upper Intermediate HSK 4 – Part I

### Course descriptor/objectives

The aim of the course is to help the learner to develop Mandarin Chinese reading, listening, written and oral skills at upper-intermediate level and for communication purposes. Therefore, by the end of the course (Part I & II) participants will be able to:

1. understand the main ideas of complex Chinese text on both concrete and abstract topics.
2. interact with a degree of spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party.
3. produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

Participants will further develop reading, listening, speaking and writing skills through a series of task-oriented sessions and will be provided with informal formative feedback during contact hours.

In seminars, participants will have to engage in practical exercises and group interaction in order to develop relevant language-specific learning strategies. The role of the instructor is to facilitate this process, provide useful tools and

encourage participants to become independent learners and basic users of the languages too.

### Language-specific information:

Mandarin Chinese boasts an incredible 1,085,000,000 speakers within China, though it is also spoken around the world. It is the second most spoken language in the world, but the first in terms of native speakers. As the main language used in China, it acts as a lingua franca for people across the Chinese provinces. As a tonal language, very similar words in Mandarin can be differentiated through the use of specific tones. Mandarin Chinese has four tones: level, rising, departing and final. These tones can often seem daunting to new learners, but can be mastered with careful practice.

### Prerequisite:

This non-credit bearing weekly course is intended for Mandarin Chinese learners, who have completed HSK Level 3 and are thoroughly familiar with its content.

It is also suitable for students who have begun studying HSK Level 4, specifically those who have covered Lessons 1 & 2, although these lessons will be reviewed at the beginning of the course.

## **Technical requirements:**

-PC, laptop or tablet with camera and microphone

-Stable internet connection

Delivery will be via Zoom

**<https://zoom.us/download>**

Once the course is confirmed, your teacher will send you an invitation for the first online session. You can expect to receive this invitation one day before the first session.

## **Coursebook and/or learning**

### **resources:**

Continuation (from L3) of:

HSK Standard Course 4 – Textbook, Beijing Language & Culture University Press, China (1 Jan. 2014)

HSK Standard Course 4 – Workbook, Beijing Language & Culture University Press, China (1 Jan. 2014)

Other materials and resources will be provided in class. Films or TV programmes will be shown to improve listening and speaking abilities.