

2011 University admission policy report  
Compiled by the British Association for Chinese Studies and  
SSAT (The Schools Network) Confucius Institute

University	Post-GCSE entrants	Post-AS entrants	Post-A2 entrants
<p><b>Newcastle University</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students with GCSE, AS or A2 Chinese can enter directly into the higher entry level B (ab initio students enter at Level A)</li> <li>After a year abroad students return to study levels C and D</li> <li>Students starting at Level B Chinese exit their studies at the higher exit level D (ab initio students exit at Level C)</li> <li>Students with some prior knowledge of the language are given a short oral test plus a short reading comprehension test in order to assess their levels in the various skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per post-GCSE entrants.</li> <li>Students with AS level Chinese generally find direct entry into our Level B matches quite well against their exit level from sixth form</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per post-AS entrants.</li> <li>Students with A2 level may find that Semester 1 of Level B repeats some of what they have previously learned. Nonetheless, the advanced route through the degree allows them a) to go on the year abroad one year earlier; and b) to exit at the higher exit level D.</li> </ul>
<p><b>School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)</b></p> <p>SOAS is keen to stress that the structure of its courses means that the BA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post-GCSE candidates usually join the first year courses with other ab initio students but may be put in an advanced group in conversation and language lab lessons. This is because traditional characters and classical Chinese are studied in the first year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students with AS/A2 Chinese are assessed and, according to their level, put into Chinese language courses for non-Chinese major students.</li> <li>Students with AS/A2 Chinese are advised to take joint honours degrees, as they will have reached the highest level for BA Chinese by Year 3 and thus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per post-AS entrants.</li> </ul>

<p>Chinese offered is not the only way to study Chinese, and students should consider a different major with elective Chinese options.</p>		<p>have limited courses to choose from in Year 4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOAS has accommodated students with AS and A2 level Chinese for several years and has encountered few problems.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>University of Cambridge</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Asian and Middle Eastern languages are taught from scratch, so there is no requirement for any previous knowledge of them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per post-GCSE entrants.</li> <li>• At present, applicants who take Chinese/Japanese at A-level to do so only as one out of four A-level subjects, keeping in mind that the balance of admission is likely to depend on performance in the other three A-level examinations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per post-AS entrants.</li> <li>• No particular subjects at A-level (or equivalent) are required for the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies course. All Asian and Middle Eastern languages are taught from scratch, so there is no requirement for any previous knowledge of them.</li> <li>• Although a language at A-level is not essential, evidence of ability to learn languages is desirable, since this is such a central part of the Cambridge courses.</li> </ul>
<p><b>University of Edinburgh</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students with prior knowledge of Chinese are allocated to courses according to their actual level as assessed by the language instructors e.g. Students can take parts of 2<sup>nd</sup> year courses in year 1 or 2 before they all go to China in year 3.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>University of Leeds</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students with prior knowledge of Chinese take a placement test on arrival.</li> <li>• Most post-GCSE students join at beginners level. Some stronger post-GCSE students can skip the first semester language classes (taking additional 'studies' modules instead) and start language classes in Semester 2.</li> <li>• More advanced students can take Intermediate Chinese (20 credits), which is at a level between Level 1 and Level 2.</li> <li>• Ab initio learners usually catch up with most post-GCSE students by the end of Semester 1.</li> <li>• The university does not receive many applications from post-AS/A2/Highers students and has had very few intermediate students so far. When a critical mass of post-A-level students is reached, the university will consider allowing them to move straight into Level 2.</li> <li>• The university occasionally receives enquiries from potential applicants whose level of Chinese is very advanced. These applicants are generally advised that the course is not suitable for them.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>University of Manchester</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ab initio - entrants are required to study 40 credits in years 1 and 2</li> <li>• Advanced beginner level entrants, i.e. students with some background in Chinese (either GCSE with some time in China, or similar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per post-GCSE entrants</li> <li>• Both advanced beginners and post-A-level are assessed by a proficiency test during registration week to ensure appropriate placement. In certain cases, they may be placed in semester</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post A-level entrants are required to study 20 credits in years 1 and 2</li> <li>• Both advanced beginners and post-A-level are assessed by a proficiency test during registration week to ensure appropriate placement. In certain</li> </ul>

	<p>experience), are required to study 40 credits in year 1 and 20 credits in year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both advanced beginners and post-A-level are assessed by a proficiency test during registration week to ensure appropriate placement. In certain cases, they may be placed in semester 2 of a lower level.</li> </ul>	2 of a lower level.	cases, they may be placed in semester 2 of a lower level.
<b>University of Nottingham</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Placement test papers are given at registration in Week 1 of semesters which are both written and spoken. Five levels of Mandarin courses are available for students with high entrance levels in first year.</li> <li>Students with GCSE A or A* are usually placed at Level 3 for 10 credit courses which have only three hours of instruction each week.</li> <li>The University usually relies on own placement papers to make the decision.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Placement test papers are given at registration in Week 1 of semesters which are both written and spoken. Five levels of Mandarin courses are available for students with high entrance levels in first year.</li> <li>AS or A2 are usually registered for Level 3 of 20 credit modules.</li> <li>The University usually relies on own placement papers to make the decision.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per post-AS entrants.</li> </ul>
<b>University of Oxford</b>	<p>Ab initio students and students with prior knowledge of Chinese are placed together for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students must attend all classes, in order to familiarise themselves with the intensity and speed of learning at Oxford. Each week we expect our students to learn 70-90 Chinese characters in full and simplified forms, and using texts from modern and classical Chinese.</li> <li>Those who have previously studied modern Chinese are able to spend more time getting used to the analytical approach to learning modern and classical Chinese, and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per post-GCSE entrants.</li> <li>The University is able to be flexible in its offer to students. Other arrangements can be made for more advanced post-AS/A2 entrants, e.g. taking a subsidiary language course such as Tibetan in lieu of first year modern language classes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per post-AS entrants</li> </ul>

	can build up their grammar foundations.		
<b>University of Sheffield</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No special provision. The beginners Level 1 course (80 credits) moves so fast even those with an A* at GCSE are learning new material by Christmas. However, different abilities are streamed in certain classes to allow those with prior knowledge to move at a faster pace</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entrants who successfully pass a placement test are given the option to join the upper Level 1 course (40 credits).</li> <li>Both level 1 programmes go to China in year 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entrants automatically join the upper Level 1 course (40 credits).</li> <li>Both level 1 programmes go to China in year 2</li> </ul>
<b>University of Westminster</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post-GCSE students join at beginners level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post AS/A2 candidates join the second year module, but will progress onto a higher level than those who started from Beginners level.</li> <li>Depending on size of post-AS/A2 intake, separate classes may also be scheduled.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per post-AS entrants</li> </ul>