

Why Study Chinese?

为什么学习中文与中国文化？

What you might already know

1. China is one of the world's oldest and richest continuous cultures, over 5000 years old.
2. China is the most populous nation in the world, with 1.28 billion people.
3. One fifth of the planet speaks Chinese. Mandarin Chinese is the mother tongue of over 873 million people, making it the most widely spoken first language in the world.
4. In addition to the People's Republic of China and Taiwan, Mandarin Chinese is also spoken in the important and influential Chinese communities of Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines, and Mongolia.
5. China is the second largest economy in the world.
6. China is one of largest trading partners of the United States.
7. Many US companies do business in China and have long-term investments there.

Chinese is important for your career!

1. International businesses prefer to hire people who speak more than one language. China has become a huge market, and business leaders are looking for people who can speak Chinese and operate successfully in a Chinese cultural context.
2. Knowing Chinese may give you an edge when competing for an important position.
3. China will play a major role in world affairs in the future. As China now has opened up to the West, there are opportunities for employment in all areas.
4. China is a wonderful country in which to teach English while developing your language and cultural skills. The experience is great, and it's something you will never forget.
5. [Teach in China](#) A program offered through the Council on International Education Exchange.
6. [China Employment Center](#) at China Online.
7. [Greater China Job Listings](#) from Wang & Li Asia Resources.
8. [Job Information Journal: China](#) ESL Cafe's journal of various job experiences in China, including places you should avoid when looking for employment.