

Job Description

Teacher of Chinese (Mandarin)

(Maternity cover)

George Watson's College seeks to appoint a Teacher of Chinese (Mandarin) from August 2025. This will be fixed term until June 2026. The post will be based at Queensferry High School and duties will include teaching Chinese (Mandarin) to pupils there and cluster primary schools, as well as potentially in other selected secondary schools in Edinburgh as part of the Swire Chinese Language Centre Edinburgh, a groundbreaking initiative funded by the Swire Chinese Language Foundation.

THE SCHOOL

George Watson's College is one of the country's best co-educational independent day schools. Founded in 1741 by a local merchant concerned for the education of young minds, it fulfils to this day the role intended by its founder. Despite its size, everyone remarks that it has a small-school 'feel': the close-knit and friendly relationships amongst all its constituents are a hallmark of the School. Its motto – *ex corde caritas* (Love from the Heart) – is central to its values as it seeks to sustain what is described as 'The Watson's Family'.

The Swire Chinese Language Centre Edinburgh (SCLCE)

The Swire Chinese Language Centre Edinburgh (SCLCE) was established in 2016 with the generous support of the Swire Chinese Language Foundation. The Centre is a collaborative venture between three schools in the South of Edinburgh: George Watson's College, James Gillespie's High School and Boroughmuir High School, but a number of other City of Edinburgh Council schools have also grown their Mandarin provision through this programme. SCLCE teachers are employed by Watson's and they teach in schools across the Centre.

All three core Partner schools are highly successful, outward looking schools with a commitment to high standards for their pupils, an ambitious curriculum and to fostering an international dimension in education. They have close associations with the University of Edinburgh Department of Education at Moray House and are involved in the training of teachers on their Postgraduate Diploma of Education (PGDE) course, including providing PGDE placements for trainee teachers of Chinese.

Queensferry High School has been part of the SCLCE growing their Mandarin provision since 2022. Mandarin is now well on its way to being embedded as a language in the school, with timetabled sessions for S1 - S3 and the school's first National 5 cohort starting in August 2025.

The Centre has two aims:

1. To increase access to high quality opportunities for pupils of all backgrounds to study Mandarin Chinese, with opportunities for progression and certification at every level.

Pupils in Partner and Associate Partner schools have the opportunity to study Chinese either as a core part of their curriculum. Pupils involved come from a range of experiences and backgrounds.

The Centre also seeks to support more pupils to study Mandarin Chinese to a high level, by offering teaching towards Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications.

2. To provide a range of enrichment activities which raise the profile of Chinese language and culture and encourage positive interactions between pupils of different schools

The Centre offers enrichment activities to provide opportunities for pupils of different schools to celebrate their learning and to form positive relationships as a result of their shared learning of Chinese language.

In addition, the Centre aims to raise broader awareness of Chinese language and culture by showcasing current activity and reaching out to those schools who may be interested in offering Mandarin Chinese in future years.

The Centre is committed to promoting language learning through school trips to China and exchanges to Taiwan, and almost all members of the Department are involved in leading or accompanying a trip each year.

The Centre is committed to integrating ICT successfully into learning and teaching. It is a thriving, innovative, collaborative place to work and learn. It offers many opportunities to develop professionally and in conjunction with its excellent resources, continually evolves to offer the best educational experience to all of its pupils.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The person appointed will:

- be a trained and qualified graduate teacher of Chinese (Mandarin), registered or eligible for registration with the General Teaching Council of Scotland;
- be an academically rigorous, dynamic, creative and flexible teacher in developing new ideas and resources, as well as adapting to curriculum changes;
- be a team player with outstanding languages skills, who is keen to explore innovative and stimulating ways to use their passion and expertise to positively encourage the next generation;
- have excellent interpersonal and communication skills and be flexible in working across different schools;

- have the means to travel between schools to teach within the working day.

JOB SPECIFICATION

Line Management

The Teacher of Chinese (Mandarin) will be responsible to the Head of Chinese (as the Head of the Swire Chinese Language Centre Edinburgh) and the Head of Modern Languages for the teaching of Chinese (Mandarin), ensuring that each pupil is positively encouraged to develop their potential in the subject to the full.

General Responsibilities

Chinese (Mandarin) is currently experiencing an exciting programme of development. It is expected that the teacher will contribute effectively in establishing an ethos of high expectation and enthusiasm throughout the department and in the classroom.

This is a partnership role. The person appointed will be teaching in City of Edinburgh schools , not at George Watson's College.

The person appointed will be responsible for teaching classes employing effective pedagogy, using their skill and experience to enable pupils to become self-regulated and successful learners in achieving their potential in the subject to the full.

They will abide by the Code of Conduct for Staff at George Watson's College and the requirements of other schools within which they will be teaching.

A contribution to the wider life of the School is an expectation of all staff.

Specific Responsibilities

The person appointed will:

- maintain the Standard for Full GTCS registration. They will be required to undertake relevant CPD, be observed and write up all activities in the GTCS Profile;
- work effectively as a member of the department to deliver quality teaching and learning and a well coordinated programme of study, in accordance with the Department's scheme of work, and ensure pupils are properly prepared for examinations;
- contribute to the teaching of Chinese (Mandarin) at other schools participating as part of the Edinburgh Chinese Language Centre for Excellence as directed by the Principal;
- ability and experience to teach courses to Higher level and/ or equivalent, ensures that pupils are very well prepared to take these and any entrance requirements for their next phase of education;

- a range of methodologies and resources are used to stimulate interest, promote creativity and encourage pupils to enjoy learning;
- differentiate lessons appropriately to meet the needs of individual pupils and to ensure every student has the opportunity to experience success;
- set high expectations for all pupils, to deepen their knowledge and understanding maximise achievement;
- prepare and provide classroom activities that are appropriate to each year group and differentiated for the learners' needs;
- be confident of their ability to work and respond to the needs of the full range of abilities in both selective a non-selective environments;
- develop new resources and course materials, as directed by and/or in collaboration with the Head of Chinese;
- assess, record and report on work of pupils as required by the School, ensuring that assessments are punctual, meaningful and informative;
- attend parent evenings and communicate with parents whenever necessary and contribute effectively and positively to the corporate life and welfare of the School;
- arrange, or assist in the arrangement of regular extra-curricular visits, including accompanying pupils on overseas visits that support teaching and learning and promote further the study and enjoyment of Chinese (Mandarin) at the School;

REMUNERATION

Teaching staff at George Watson's College are paid a competitive salary. The salary is pensionable under the Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme.

DISCLOSURE SCOTLAND - PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS SCHEME

All staff must be prepared to undergo screening to confirm their suitability to work with children and young people.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT / PROFESSIONAL REVIEW

All staff are required to participate in appropriate programmes of continuing professional development and undergo professional review as set out in the School's policy.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, please include a letter of application of not more than 800 words giving us more information about you and why you would like the role, addressed to Mrs Maggie Sproule, Head of Swire Chinese Language Centre Edinburgh.

Any specific questions relating to the advertised post can be put directly to Mrs Maggie Sproule, Head of Swire Chinese Language Centre Edinburgh by emailing: m.sproule@gwc.org.uk

Candidates called for interview will be asked to teach a lesson as part of the selection process.

If you require more information about the School, please visit our school website.

Closing date: **Wednesday 14 May 2025**

Interviews are scheduled to take place on **Thursday 22 May 2025**.