



## Australian School of Contemporary Chinese

# Beginning Chinese

## 2026-2027

The Beginning Chinese is for high school and college students who are non-Chinese background speakers and who have no or very little previous learning experience in the language. It is based on the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies Guidelines and Course Framework for Years 11 and 12, but the course has been developed with a larger audience in mind. It aims to develop the learner's communication skills and language and cultural awareness and effectiveness.

The complete Beginning course comprises two year's learning, one theme for each term. We normally take in new students at the beginning of a year, although late entry is allowed if a student is willing to do some extra work to catch up. Blended learning style ensures that every student's individual needs are considered and catered for as much as possible.

### Themes for this course include:

Year/term	Unit Title(s)/ Topics*	Length	Value
<b>2026/S1</b>	<b>The Individual</b>	<b>Semestr</b>	<b>1.0</b>
2026/T1	Counting numbers in Mandarin, daily life topics (e.g. greeting, thanks, apology, farewell, telling time, day and dates, weather), family and pets, daily routine (including telling time)	Term	0.5
2026/T2	Hobby and sport, feelings and relationship, personal life experiences, and how identity and belonging is constructed in intercultural communication	Term	0.5
<b>2026/S2</b>	<b>Society and Community</b>	<b>Semestr</b>	<b>1.0</b>
2026/T3	The language futures of Mandarin, how Chinese language has affected the other languages of the world, countries, nationalities and languages, entertainment (e.g. TV programs, films and social media), health, and social organisations	Term	0.5
2026/T4	Schools and education (subjects, timetables, feelings about tests, clothing and school uniforms), environment (houses, items in a house, environment protection) and technology (e.g. internet, mobile phones) and my role as a member of the society	Term	0.5
<b>2027/S1</b>	<b>The Changing World</b>	<b>Semestr</b>	<b>1.0</b>
2027/T1	How to make requests in Mandarin, work and careers (the potential job markets), responsibilities of self and others in the changing world, and Chinese food	Term	0.5
2027/T2	Asking about directions, school holidays, travel and shopping (e.g. Chinese currency, modes of transport, itinerary, distance, accommodation), and how the cultural features are shown in tourist attraction spots	Term	0.5
<b>2027/S2</b>	<b>Diverse Perspectives</b>	<b>Semestr</b>	<b>1.0</b>
2027/T3	Chinese zodiac signs and personality, how cultural values are expressed in art work (e.g. music and artefacts), visual and performing arts (painting and simple plays), cultural influence in conversations, hospitality (e.g. visiting a Chinese family, giving and accepting presents)	Term	0.5

2027/T4	Traditional Chinese festivals and relevant food, and politeness (e.g. asking about age, compliments and modesty, table manners in different settings), the new slang words from Chinese speaking regions, body language used in communication, and how other languages, cultures, and migration influence the Chinese language	Term	0.5
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Note: \* The actual themes/topics may vary according to teacher's choice. All teachers for this class are TQI accredited.

This course would enable students to

- enhance their capacity to communicate and interact effectively within and across languages and cultures and show control over linguistic elements with an awareness of audience and purpose
- acquire language learning processes and strategies
- understand the interrelationship between language and culture, and the importance of intercultural and intracultural capabilities
- acquire skills to be a global citizen
- understand the diversity and variability of language use; how language changes with the context of situation and culture (participants and their relationship, circumstances of communication)

For those who are studying at Year 11 or Year 12 at a college, if they wish to have their learning outcomes recorded on their Year 12 Certificate, or want use their study of this course for their ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank), they need to enrol as such so the requirements for assessment, moderation and reporting can be ensured. For these students, two term's study are valued at 1.0 standard units and one year's study (2 standard units) meets course requirements for a Minor while two year's study would be counted as a Major. Students who successfully complete this Beginning Chinese course as a major may be prepared to sit the Chinese Proficiency Test or HSK Level III Certificate.

This course is also suitable for high school students who want to start to learn Chinese. They will be able to continue their Chinese study at a higher level (Intermediate or Continuing level) for their Year 12 Certificate and ATAR when they start Year 11/12.

Students intend to enrol at ASCC for Beginning Chinese T Course may obtain an enrolment from the school or download a form from BSSS website at

[https://www.bsss.act.edu.au/act\\_senior\\_secondary\\_system/curriculum/bsss\\_courses/languages/beginning\\_modern\\_languages\\_a-t-m](https://www.bsss.act.edu.au/act_senior_secondary_system/curriculum/bsss_courses/languages/beginning_modern_languages_a-t-m)