

SCOTLAND'S INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK CHINA ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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First Minister meets with Vice Premier Hu Chunhua
Credit: The Scottish Government

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Flags

Credit: Scottish Government

SCOTLAND'S COMMITMENT TO A STRONG, LONG-TERM, BILATERAL PARTNERSHIP WITH CHINA

Why China?

As we build sustainable economic growth in Scotland and continue to be an outward looking nation, China remains a priority country for our international engagement. With steady economic growth, the world's largest population and increasing international partnerships, China has an important global role. China's ambitious economic growth and infrastructure programmes, such as the monumental Belt and Road Initiative, offer valuable opportunities for Scotland's businesses and institutions.

China's 13th Five Year Plan (2016-20) sets out clear ambitions in areas such as science and innovation, inclusive economic growth, gender and health equality, the development of green industries, increasing employment and access to quality education, many of which chime with Scottish Government priorities and aspirations. Furthermore, China's positive commitment to addressing climate change through the UN Paris Climate Agreement is significant.

We are committed to working collaboratively and constructively with China, focusing on areas of maximum mutual benefit and where Scotland has a unique story to tell.

[Find out more about current collaboration between Scotland and China](#)

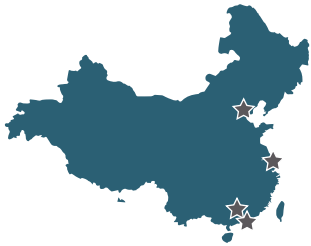
[Find out more about Scotland in China](#)



SCOTLAND AND CHINA

OVER 30 YEARS OF
TWINNING BETWEEN
GLASGOW & DALIAN

SCOTLAND WELCOMED
CHINESE VICE-PREMIER
LIU YANDONG
TO SCOTLAND IN 2017



SCOTTISH DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL HAS OFFICES
IN **BEIJING, HONG KONG**
SHANGHAI AND SHENZHEN


OVER 15,000
CHINESE IN SCOTLAND
(SOURCE: 2011 CENSUS)

13 SCOTTISH
MINISTERIAL VISITS
TO CHINA SINCE 2007

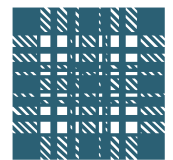
FIRST MINISTER MET
VICE-PREMIER
HU CHUNHUA
IN BEIJING IN
~~~~~**2018**~~~~~



ANNUAL **ST ANDREW'S**  
**DAY CEILIDH** IN BEIJING

**SCOTTISH AFFAIRS OFFICE** BASED  
IN UK EMBASSY IN **BEIJING**

THE **CHINESE-SCOTTISH TARTAN** REPRESENTS  
**FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS**



CHINESE CONSULATE  
IN EDINBURGH FOR  
**OVER 20 YEARS**  


OVER 30 YEARS OF  
TWINNING BETWEEN  
**EDINBURGH & XI'AN**  
~~~~~  
GATEWAY TO THE SILK ROAD

Scotland's international ambitions

One of the key priorities of [Scotland's Economic Strategy](#) is internationalisation. Our co-operation with China fully supports this. The aims of internationalisation are defined in [Scotland's International Framework](#):

- to create an environment within Scotland that supports a better understanding of international opportunities and a greater appetite and ability to seize them; and
- to influence the world around us on the issues that matter most in helping Scotland flourish.

Scotland's ambitions for working with China complement our [Trade and Investment Strategy](#) as well as the [UN Sustainable Goals for Development](#).

Strategic objectives for engagement with China

Scotland's China engagement strategy is aligned to the strategic objectives of the [International Framework](#).

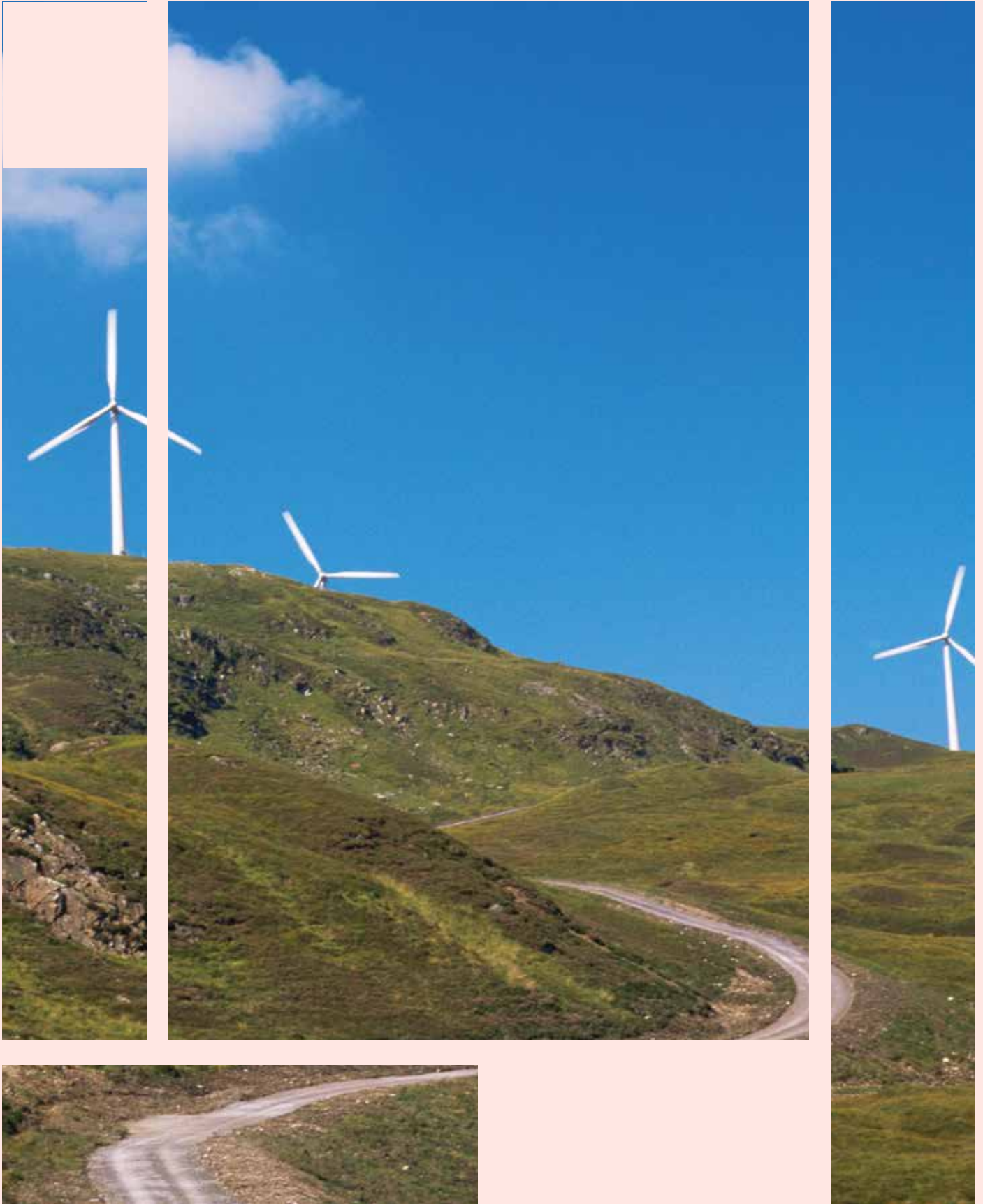
Guiding principles for engagement with China

Scotland and China have common challenges and aspirations on issues such as **gender, social and health equity, fair work and climate justice**. The Scottish Government is proud of recent initiatives to promote social justice, such as the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill, the Business Pledge, Fair Work Convention and our work on [Internationalising Social Enterprise](#).

We aim to work collaboratively and constructively with China - promoting our values through sharing practical learning and experiences - to encourage an open, honest dialogue. This work will help us to collectively address global challenges, contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and support UN human rights treaties.

Positive People-to-People and Diplomatic relations are the foundation of Scotland's engagement with China. This entails a steady flow of high level delegations, including ministers, to and from China, as well as maintaining good relations with the Chinese Government and UK Government partners such as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. We will continue to build on existing relationships with Beijing, Shanghai, Shandong province, Shenzhen, Tianjin and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, whilst considering other opportunities as they arise.

Respect for Human Rights and the Rule of Law are also fundamental to our engagement with China. This means balancing economic development with social justice. Indeed, the premise that **increasing growth and tackling inequality are mutually supportive** is at the heart of our engagement with China. Our approach is informed by collaborative work with Scottish human rights organisations.



Wind farm
Credit: The Scottish Government

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1 –

GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Aim

To enhance Scotland's global outlook, we will embed internationalisation and create an environment which encourages knowledge exchange. We will provide targeted support to our people, businesses and institutions to help them to seize international opportunities. We must also understand the impact of our work on others.

Trade and Investment

The Scottish Government's [Trade and Investment strategy](#) aims to boost export performance and to attract inward capital and risk investment to Scotland. Similarly the Chinese Government's ongoing policy of 'opening up' and economic programmes such as the Belt and Road Initiative, and Made in China 2025 put trade and investment at the core of China's international ambitions.

There are huge opportunities for Scottish companies to work with China, particularly in energy, technology, engineering, financial services, financial investment, food and drink, life sciences, tourism, textiles and education. Through our Enterprise agencies, in particular Scottish Development International's offices in Scotland and China, we can help Scottish companies to trade in China and identify opportunities for Chinese investors in Scotland. Organisations such as the Scottish Chambers of Commerce, the China Britain Business Council and our universities have well-established connections to China and valuable experiences to share. Through all our engagement, we also recognise the need to support the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

China's growing middle class, which is predicted to account for more than a third of its population by 2030,* already has an appetite for Scottish premium products such as whisky, salmon, textiles and tourism. This looks set to continue and diversify as new Scottish products become popular in the Chinese market.

The Chinese energy system is – like Scotland's – experiencing rapid change. Our [2050 Energy Strategy](#) commits us to building on Scotland's expertise and reputation for excellence in energy exploration, generation, infrastructure, and system management, by forging collaborative partnerships with other countries.

*Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit

What is our long-term ambition?

- Support more Scottish companies to do business successfully with China.
- Increase Scottish exports to China.
- Support Scottish companies operating in China to increase their revenues.
- Scotland is seen as a preferred trade and investment partner in China in energy, technology and engineering, financial services, food and drink, life sciences, tourism, textiles and education.
- Seek further investment from China into Scotland, with a focus on new high value investment.

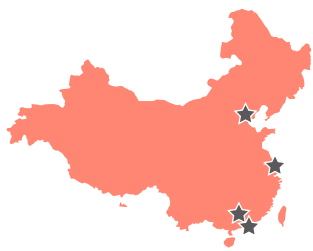
[Find out more about current collaboration in trade and investment](#)

[Find out about some of the organisations involved](#)

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

CHINESE TOURISM GROUP **CTRIP**
BOUGHT SCOTLAND-BASED
ONLINE SEARCH COMPANY **SKYSCANNER**
FOR **£1.4BN** IN 2016

EXPORTS OF SCOTTISH SALMON
TO CHINA **INCREASED 30%**
 TO **£69 MILLION** IN
IN 2017 (SOURCE: HMRC)



**SCOTTISH DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL** HAS OFFICES
IN **BEIJING, HONG KONG
SHANGHAI AND SHENZHEN**

 **SCOTCH WHISKY EXPORTS
TO CHINA INCREASED
47% TO £61 MILLION**
IN 2017 (SOURCE: HMRC)

CHINA IS SCOTLAND'S
17TH LARGEST
EXPORT MARKET
(SOURCE: EXPORT STATISTICS SCOTLAND 2016)

**TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN
ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING, FINANCIAL SERVICES,
FOOD & DRINK, LIFE SCIENCES, TOURISM, TEXTILES & EDUCATION**



**10 CHINESE OWNED
ENTERPRISES IN SCOTLAND
EMPLOYING 2,630 PEOPLE**
(SOURCE: BUSINESSES IN SCOTLAND 2017,
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT)

CHINA IS FOR THE FIRST TIME
A TOP 5
**SOURCE OF INWARD
INVESTMENT TO SCOTLAND**
(SOURCE: EY ATTRACTIVENESS SURVEY 2017)



Whisky tasting
Credit: Edinburgh Tourism Action Group (ETAG)



Giant Panda - Yang Guang
Credit: RZSS Edinburgh Zoo

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2 – RELATIONSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS

Aim

We will work with partners to share local knowledge and build bilateral relationships and networks. We will use these connections to create and shape opportunities of value to Scotland. We will continue to be a good global citizen, making distinctive contributions to addressing global challenges such as climate change, tackling inequality and promoting human rights.

Environment and Science

Scotland's international reputation as a climate change leader is growing, with ambitious emissions reduction targets and greater use of low carbon and renewable energy. China is also taking its international obligations to combat climate change seriously, with a firm commitment to the UN Paris Climate Agreement, national initiatives to reduce air pollution and large investments in green energy development. With common recognition that taking climate action can provide wider economic and social benefits, such as new jobs and positive health outcomes, there is fertile ground for co-operation between Scotland and China. Joint work is already underway in areas such as habitat conservation, offshore wind, waste water management and smart cities.

Both China and Scotland recognise that innovation is the key to building a strong, sustainable economy. The Chinese Government's desire to move away from heavy industry and 'build an innovation-driven economy and society by 2020*', makes Scotland's world renowned expertise in research and development of great interest to China. We both also face ageing populations with increasing healthcare needs - areas where there is much scope for scientific co-operation, particularly in life sciences.

*Source: China's 13th Five Year Plan

What is our long-term ambition?

- Increase co-operation between Scotland and China on global environmental and sustainability issues.
- Scotland and China's science and innovation strengths are enhanced.
- Encourage greater flows of talent and knowledge between Scotland and China.
- We contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.
- We contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

[Find out more about current collaboration on environment, science and innovation](#)

[Find out about some of the organisations involved](#)

ENVIRONMENT AND SCIENCE

SCOTLAND HAS A LOW CARBON **INNOVATION HUB IN HONG KONG**

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN
EDINBURGH HAS BEEN
WORKING WITH
CHINA FOR OVER
100 YEARS



OVER 1,600
CHINESE PLANT
SPECIES AT THE
ROYAL BOTANIC
GARDEN
EDINBURGH

SCOTTISH EXPERTISE SUPPORTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE FIRST OFFSHORE WIND FARM
IN GUANGDONG PROVINCE, CHINA



EDINBURGH ZOO IS HOME TO THE
ONLY GIANT PANDAS
IN THE UK - ON LOAN
FROM THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT



SCOTLAND IS **WORKING WITH CHINA**
ON GIANT PANDA
CONSERVATION AND
LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

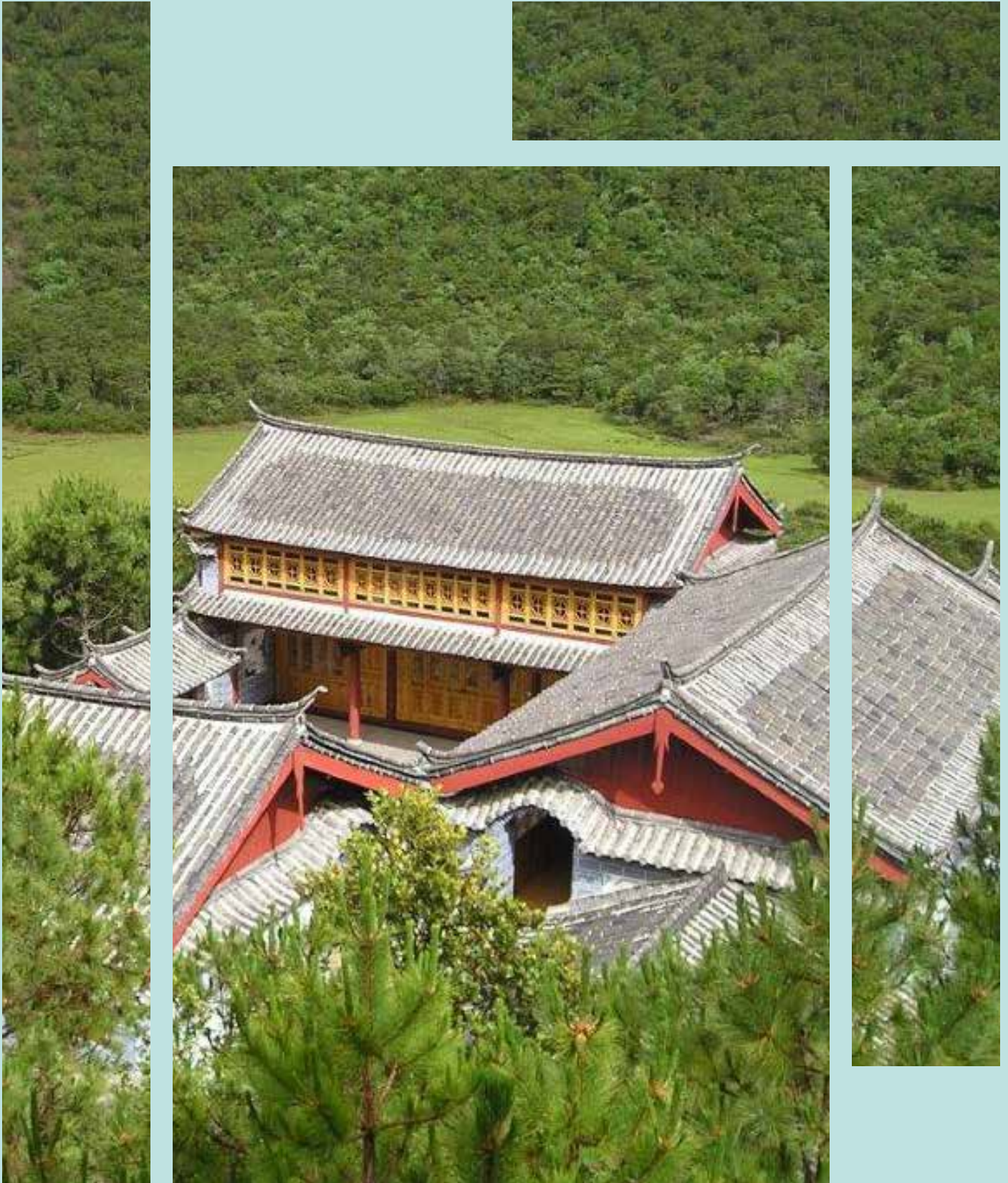
SCIENTISTS FROM DUNDEE'S
JAMES HUTTON INSTITUTE
ARE **COLLABORATING WITH CHINA**
ON POTATO
RESEARCH



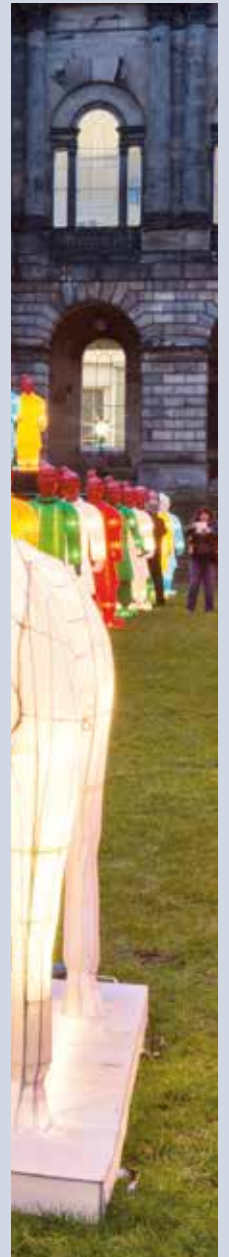
A CUTTING-EDGE
DIABETES
RESEARCH & TREATMENT
CENTRE IN SHENZHEN IS BASED
ON **SCOTLAND'S RENOWNED**
HEALTHCARE MODEL FOR
MANAGING PATIENTS WITH
CHRONIC CONDITIONS



THE WORLD'S FIRST **SCIENCE SPECIALIST**
CONFUCIUS CLASSROOM IS BASED AT **EDINBURGH ZOO**



The Jade Dragon Field Station in Yunnan a joint research facility of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and Chinese Academy of Science's Kunming Institute of Botany
Credit: RBGE



↑
Terracotta Warrior Lanterns at the University of Edinburgh
Credit: Confucius Institute for Scotland

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3 –

REPUTATION AND ATTRACTIVENESS

Aim

We are committed to building our reputation and international attractiveness by celebrating and promoting our culture and values, boosting our export performance, ensuring that Scotland remains an attractive location for investment and building on our education research capability.

Culture, Heritage and Tourism

Cultural and heritage collaboration between China and Scotland helps to develop mutual understanding, transcend language barriers and build a relationship based on respect, trust and celebration. It can also enhance educational, business and diplomatic co-operation.

Both Scotland and China are committed to promoting, preserving and widening public access to culture and heritage, with recognition of the economic benefits, as well as the positive impact that cultural engagement can have on health and wellbeing.

In 2015, a five year cultural memorandum of understanding between Scotland and China was renewed, to foster greater collaboration, best practice exchange and educational outreach in a range of areas. These include: performing and visual arts, museums and collections, archaeological research, literature, publishing, film, art and crafts, built heritage, music, software design, animation and gaming.

As Scotland's reputation in China grows, the popularity of Scotland as a destination for Chinese tourists is increasing, particularly among young Chinese travellers. Reciprocally, Scottish tourism businesses are building their understanding of the needs of Chinese visitors.

What is our long-term ambition?

- Strong, long-term cultural and heritage co-operation between China and Scotland.
- Greater awareness of Chinese culture in Scotland, helping Scotland to internationalise.
- Greater awareness in China of Scottish culture, including better visibility of Scottish cultural activity in China.
- Scotland is established as a must-visit, must-return destination for key Chinese tourist markets.
- China is regarded as a key market for the Scottish tourism industry and Scottish tourism businesses have an increased understanding of the needs of Chinese visitors.

[Find out more about collaboration in culture, heritage and tourism](#)

[Find out about some of the organisations involved](#)

CULTURE, HERITAGE AND TOURISM

173,610 CHINESE TOURISTS VISITED **EDINBURGH CASTLE** IN 2017, **ACCOUNTING FOR 10.4% OF TOTAL VISITS** TO THE CASTLE (SOURCE: EDINBURGH CASTLE) 

TWO REPLICA TERRACOTTA WARRIORS ARE IN STIRLING  | WORKING WITH **SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE**, VISITSCOTLAND ENGAGED **OVER 400 SCOTTISH SUPPLIERS** IN CHINA-READY WORKSHOPS

CULTURAL MOU BETWEEN CHINA AND SCOTLAND ON THE ARTS, CREATIVE INDUSTRIES, HERITAGE AND NATIONAL COLLECTIONS



CHINESE MUSIC, THEATRE, DANCE, PUPPETRY AND CIRCUS IN EDINBURGH'S FESTIVALS

TOTAL SPEND BY CHINESE VISITORS TO SCOTLAND **HAS INCREASED BY 414%** - FROM £7 MILLION TO £36 MILLION SINCE 2007

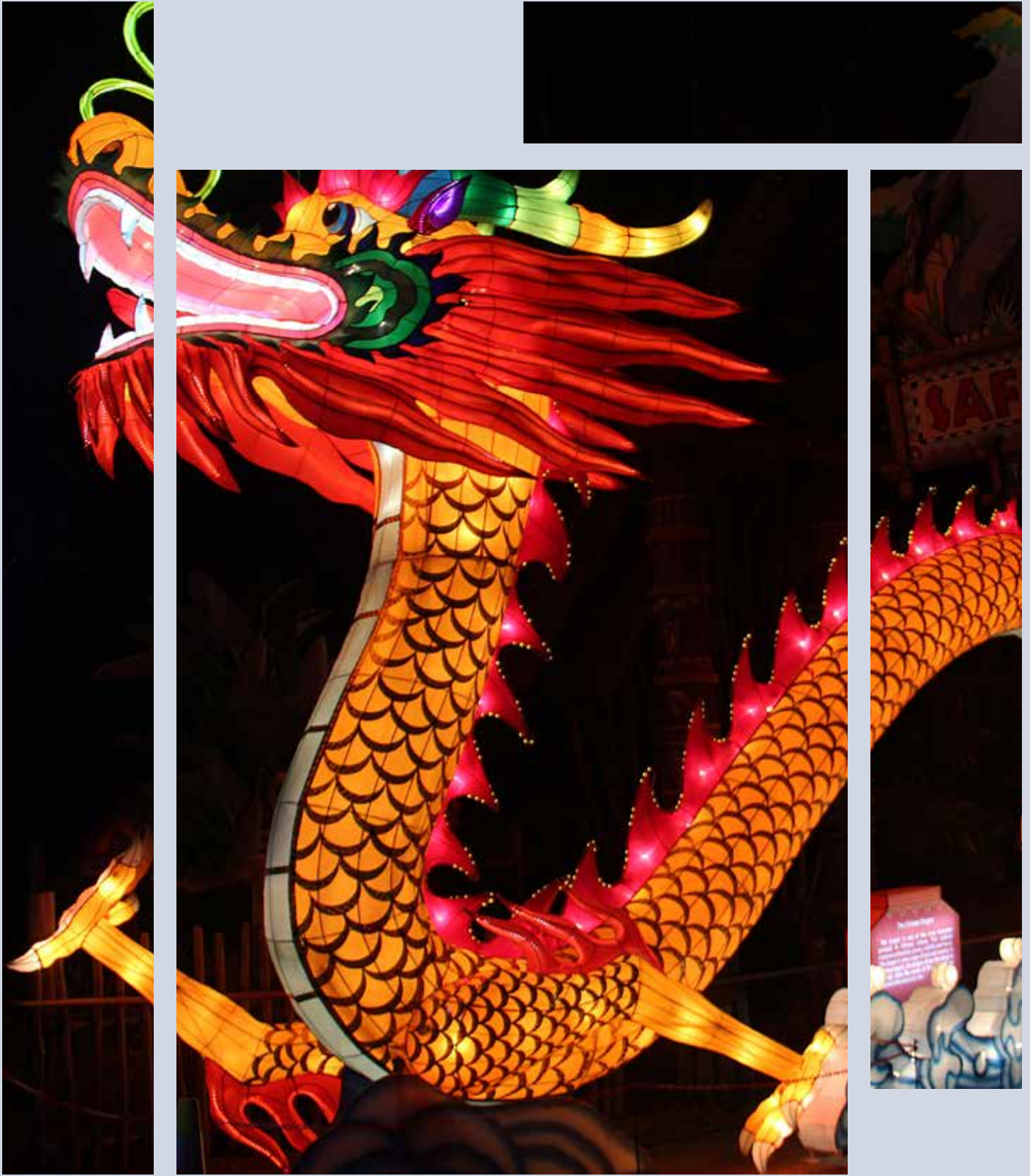
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND AND STIRLING UNIVERSITY ARE WORKING ON HERITAGE CONSERVATION WITH THE **FORBIDDEN CITY'S PALACE MUSEUM**

 **900 CHINESE SCHOOLCHILDREN** TOOK PART IN SCOTTISH OPERA **'WARRIORS'** WORKSHOPS IN CHINA IN 2017

THE POETRY OF **ROBERT BURNS** & THE WORK OF **MURIEL SPARK** HAS BEEN TRANSLATED INTO MANDARIN

IN JUNE 2017, **VISITSCOTLAND** HOSTED OVER **150** KEY ACCOUNT MEETINGS ACROSS **5 CITIES** IN CHINA

CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN EDINBURGH FESTIVALS AND SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 



↑
Lowry Park Silk Dragon
Credit: RZSS Edinburgh Zoo



West End Festival
Confucius Institute



Glasgow University Confucius Institute at the West End Festival
Credit: Glasgow University Confucius Institute

Education, Skills, Research and Innovation

China's 13th Five Year Plan (2016-20) emphasises the importance of education, with specific priorities that include improving standards of schools and universities, widening access to education, promoting the development of vocational education and lifelong learning, and international co-operation in education. Scotland's global reputation for high quality education, research and skills development makes us an ideal partner for China.

Education and skills co-operation between Scotland and China can take place at all ages and stages - through schools, universities, colleges, other educational institutions and people-to-people connections.

Scotland is home to five Confucius Institutes and nearly all of Scotland's Higher Education Institutions have academic and research links to Chinese institutions in a diverse range of fields, including science, environment and creative industries.

Within the framework of Scotland's education policy, providing opportunities for Scottish young people to learn Mandarin through programmes such as the Confucius Classroom Hubs helps them to develop skills for a global mind-set and prepare them with knowledge and confidence to work with China in the future.

Scotland continues to be successful in attracting increasing numbers of international students from China, who choose to study at our world class universities. We are keen to stay connected to this alumni group throughout their future lives and careers.

What is our long-term ambition?

- Scotland and China's education, skills and research strengths are enhanced.
- China has an improved awareness of Scotland's strong educational reputation.
- Scottish young people have an increased interest and understanding of China, its language and culture - through both learning Mandarin and the Scottish Government 1+2 Languages Policy.
- Scotland is seen as a preferred country for Chinese higher education students and more Scottish students take up opportunities to study in China.
- We contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 4 to ensure inclusive education.

Find out more about current collaboration in education and skills

[Find out about some of the organisations involved](#)

Delivery

This strategy for engagement with China is clearly aligned with the [Scottish Government's International Framework](#). The Framework is accompanied by a regular policy statement.

[Find out more from some of the organisations involved](#)

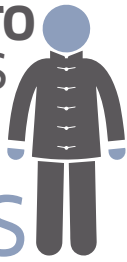
EDUCATION, SKILLS, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

THE EDINBURGH SHENZHEN CREATIVE EXCHANGE PROJECT SUPPORTS INNOVATIVE COMPANIES FROM SHENZHEN AND EDINBURGH

THERE ARE FIVE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES IN SCOTLAND AT STRATHCLYDE, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, ABERDEEN AND HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITIES

OVER 9,000 CHINESE STUDENTS STUDYING AT SCOTTISH HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTES (SOURCE HESA STATS, JAN 2018)

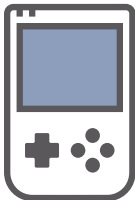
FIRST CHINESE PERSON TO STUDY IN EUROPE WAS DR HUANG KUAN AT EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY IN THE 1850S



OVER 270 CHINESE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED SCOTLAND'S PRESTIGIOUS SALTIRE SCHOLARSHIP SINCE 2009



ABERTAY UNIVERSITY HAS A PARTNERSHIP WITH CHINA-BASED ENTERTAINMENT AND EDUCATION COMPANY PERFECT WORLD TO SHARE EXPERTISE IN THE VIDEO GAMES SECTOR



THE 'FATHER OF CHINESE BOTANIC GARDENS' CHEN FENG HUAI, STUDIED IN SCOTLAND IN THE 1930S

SINCE 2012, OVER 500 YOUNG SCOTS HAVE BEEN ON IMMERSION TRIPS TO CHINA

44 CONFUCIUS CLASSROOM HUBS IN SCOTLAND

STRATHCLYDE UNIVERSITY HOSTS THE JOINT INTERNATIONAL SPACE MECHATRONIC SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH LAB WITH THE CHINA ACADEMY OF LAUNCH VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY



SCOTLAND'S MOST NORTHERLY CONFUCIUS CLASSROOM HUB IS ON THE SHETLAND ISLES





↑
First Minister in Science Lab
Credit: Scottish Government

Find out more from some of the organisations involved

Trade and investment

- [Scottish Development International](#)
- [Scottish Enterprise](#)
- [China Britain Business Council](#)
- [Scottish Chambers of Commerce](#)
- [Scottish Local Authorities](#)
- [Edinburgh Shenzhen Creative Exchange](#)
- [Asia Scotland Institute](#)
- [Scotch Whisky Association](#)

Environment and science

- [Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh](#)
- [Royal Society of Edinburgh](#)
- [Forestry Commission Scotland](#)
- [The James Hutton Institute](#)
- [Edinburgh Zoo](#)
- [Scottish Universities](#)

Culture, Heritage and Tourism

- [Historic Environment Scotland](#)
- [Creative Scotland](#)
- [British Council Scotland](#)
- [British Council China](#)
- [Festivals Edinburgh](#)
- National Performing Companies
- [Edinburgh Tourism Action Group](#)
- [Visit Scotland](#)

Education, Skills, Research and Innovation

- [Universities Scotland](#)
- [Scottish Universities](#)
- [Social Enterprise Academy Scotland](#)
- [British Council China](#)
- [Scottish China Education Network](#)
- [Confucius Institute at the University of Glasgow](#)
- [Confucius Institute for Scotland](#)
- [Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools](#)
- [Confucius Institute for Business and Communication](#)
- [Confucius Institute of the University of Aberdeen](#)



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