

### **Item 10h East Asian studies report**

#### **Report for East Asian Studies**

UCML Exec Committee meeting  
8 November 2019

For this report I contacted 89 colleagues in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Studies across the UK. I received five responses, which all together commented on seven topics covering recruitment, teaching contracts, scholarships, research impact, library resources, promotion of languages and cultures, and services provided by Confucius Institutes. Some of the issues raised were related to particular institutions. As it would not be appropriate to name institutions in this report, I have not done so; and, in any case, the institution-specific issues also spoke to the general picture in the sector. Direct quotations from respondents are placed within quotation marks.

#### **RECRUITMENT**

##### **Recruitment and outreach difficulties in state schools, particularly for Chinese Studies**

“The secondary education system (in general) does not create clear pathways into Chinese studies (particularly in state schools) and Chinese studies does not have the same pop cultural appeal as Japanese and Korean. East Asian studies overall faces these issues too, but it is particularly pronounced in Chinese.”

#### **TEACHING CONTRACTS**

##### **Over-use of doctoral students on temporary teaching contracts**

Because of financial strains, some institutions are not able to recruit permanent teaching staff to replace colleagues who have left or retired and choose to rely on doctoral students on temporary teaching contracts to fill the gap.

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

##### **Opaque and inconsistent Hanban scholarship awards process for study in China**

“[...] the inconsistent and changing criteria from year to year, and most importantly, the opaque screening process with no convincing feedback given to students meeting the criteria but rejected, sometimes, students with lower HSK marks were granted scholarship while those while higher marks were unsuccessful.”

#### **RESEARCH IMPACT**

### **Detrimental effect on East Asian Studies of the move to impact-focused research**

“[...] the increased focus on impact has narrowed the scope of what is seen as valuable research at the executive level in higher education. East Asian studies, with its focus on communities outside of the UK, does not fit well into this new focus.”

### **LIBRARY RESOURCES**

#### **Need for enhanced coordination between subject associations and corresponding librarian groups**

i.e. between BAJIS, BAKS, BACS and the Japan Library Group UK, Korea Library Group UK, China Library Group UK, European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists, European Network of Korean Resource Specialists, and the European Association of Sinological Librarians.

“This could be particularly relevant to consortium-based purchases of electronic resources as well as to funding for cataloguing projects to make rare East Asian resources findable in UK collections.”

### **PROMOTION OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES**

#### **Under-recognition of value of languages and cultures**

“The value of language has not been sufficiently recognized by colleagues outside Languages & Cultures departments. It would be great if there are some platforms where we showcase the value of languages & cultures learning collectively.”

### **SERVICES PROVIDED BY CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES**

#### **Highlighting services of Confucius Institutes for Chinese Studies – teaching, research, outreach, and engagement**

- Support for CI (Hanban) scholarship applications
- Provision of HSK test centres and HSK preparation
- Delivery of credit-bearing Chinese language modules
- Delivery of Chinese language and culture teaching in primary and secondary schools
- Outreach days in schools
- Funding, organisation and (co-)hosting of research conferences and seminar programmes
- Provision of a wide range of cultural activities on campus and in the community

Derek Hird, 2 November 2019