

Mandarin Excellence Programme: Clarification Questions

Please could you provide responses to the questions set out in the document below. Questions have been set out into sections relating to your responses to Template 2a, Template 2b and the delivery proposal for the programme.

A maximum word limit of up to 200 words per response applies to each individual question. This includes graphs and tables.

Please could you submit your response via the Jaggaer Messaging Facility by 17:00 GMT on 26 May 2021.

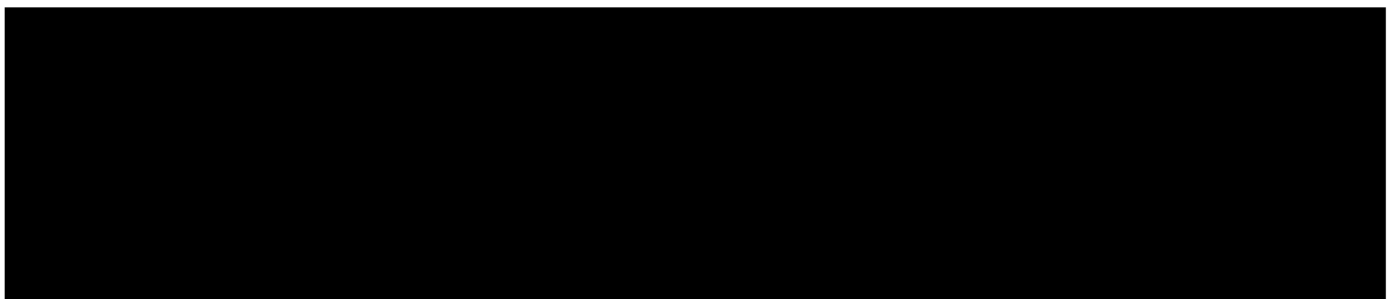
Section A: Clarification questions relating to Template 2a- Mandarin Excellence Programme Pricing Schedule Including China

1. In reference to your response to Template 2a- Mandarin Excellence Programme Pricing Schedule including China, the total cost allocated to Payment by Results is listed as [REDACTED]. Please could you share your calculations for this total?



2. Please can you complete the following financial table listed below, demonstrating the breakdown of the main financial costs per financial year.

Table 2a (China trip)



Section B: Clarification questions relating to Template 2b- Mandarin Excellence Programme Pricing Schedule without China

1. In reference to your response to Template 2b- Mandarin Excellence Programme Pricing Schedule without China, the total cost allocated to Payment by Results is listed as [REDACTED]. Please could you share your calculations for this total?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. Please could you provide clarification for the type of resources which would be developed as part of the “Annual cost for development of resources to keep pupils engaged and motivated in the absence of a visit to China.”

These will be project based resources that will engage Year 9 students in topical subjects, can be worked on independently, and promote a sense of global citizenship through guided independent study in Mandarin. The themes will be aligned with the GCSE Mandarin syllabus (and its themes of 1. Identity and Culture, 2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest, 3. Current and Future Study and Employment) and will be used either as extension and consolidation complementing regular GCSE schemes of work or as engaging revision tasks.

Examples of exercises for inclusion could include or be a combination of:

- guided study assignments
- authentic materials for students to read or watch and analyse
- support for students in tackling open-ended tasks such as preparing a speech for a debate
- writing an article, letter, poem or song lyrics
- creating a short video clip, sound file or multimedia piece
- designing a poster to persuade

In each subsequent year where there is no trip to China, new topics will be developed that are current, engaging and interesting for the students. The resources will be sustainable, last beyond the lifespan of MEP, and suitable for use by schools who are not participating the programme.

3. Please could you provide clarification as to how grant funding for pupils allocated within the non-China schedule, will be used?

When there is no trip to China, Intensive Study payments (£200 per Year 9 pupil) will be used to enable regional school group activity to complement the virtual online intensive learning and extra activity with groups of MEP learners from other schools during the year. The retention payments (£220 per year 9) pupil will be used by the school to arrange activities that incentivise students in the absence of a China trip and ensure a high level of motivation is maintained and pupils are retained in future years.

No other year groups are impacted by the absence of a trip to China. All other grant funding will continue to be allocated in the same way as it would be when the China trip goes ahead.

4. Please can you complete the following financial table listed below, demonstrating the breakdown of the main financial costs per financial year.

Table 2b (non-China trip)

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Section C: Clarification Questions relating to both Template 2a and Template 2b

1. As stated within your cost schedule response for Template 2a and Template 2b, a full breakdown of the British Council delivery costs are available upon request. Please could you share this information for both the China and the non-China option, including the costs for marketing and communications?

Full breakdowns are attached. In summary:

[Redacted] [Redacted]

*Total Communications costs do not exceed limit of 100k.

Communications costs reduce over lifecycle as demand for new activity and content to continue to motivate students reduces and previous content can be recycled.

**Other includes China stakeholder management and running costs.

***Staffing is reduced in comparison to the face to face China intensive learning as less staff time is needed for travelling to universities for risk assessments and quality assurance of delivery.

****Other includes China stakeholder management and running costs and additional expenditure on afternoon digital tours and collaboration events for UK students that are not needed in the face to face intensive learning version.

2. Referenced within both cost schedules (Template 2a and Template 2b), please could you provide clarification as to the benefit of supplying branded items.

Branded items will;

- Ensure that students will feel part of a large scale national programme.
- Ensure parents feel that their children are part of a high quality, large scale national programme.
- Enhance motivation for pupils participation.
- Establishing a connection with MEP pupils.
- Indirectly promoting the programme to a wider audience and generating programme awareness.
- Recognition of the programme within schools and across the local teaching community.
- Provide the students with character writing workbooks (Chinese Character writing grids), and stationary.
- Ensure students are instantly identifiable, and assisting with child safety while participating in intensive study activities (for instance, MEP logo caps).

3. What would the cost, if any, be for hosting the MEP resources online?

The annual fee to host the MEP Teacher Training films will be [Redacted] per year.

Section D: Clarification Questions relating to Section B: Delivery Proposal for the Programme

1. Please could you confirm the total funds that each pupil will be expected to raise to cover expenses for their participation in any

potential China trip?

The answer to this question is dependent on the cost of flights to China. Based on the average cost of a flight ticket and visa in previous years we would estimate that the total cost would be approximately

Therefore the NET cost to parents or the school for each pupil to participate will be [REDACTED] intensive study payment per pupil).

There is a risk that average flight cost may be higher than [REDACTED] per pupil. In which case the cost to parents and/or schools for participation of a pupil will increase in line with the flight costs.

2. Can you clarify how the Hardship Fund will be split to cover any potential travel costs of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds?

Schools participating in intensive study will be audited prior to the trip to confirm how many students in each school who are participating in the trip are from a disadvantaged background. The hardship fund will be divided equally across the pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, up to and not exceeding the cost of the intensive study trip to schools/parents (see the answer to question 1 above). The DfE will be notified of any underspend.