



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA (UHM)

# CENTER FOR CHINESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION

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## ABOUT US

The Center for Chinese Language Education (CCLLE) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), sponsored by the National Tsing Hua University BEST Chinese Program, was established under the partnership of the two institutions. The Center's mission is to promote Chinese language teaching and research, enhance Chinese teaching pedagogy and teacher's training, and encourage exchange between the respective faculty, scholars, and students through cooperation and collaboration between the two institutions.

## CENTER HISTORY

The Center for Chinese Language Education (CCLLE) in cooperation with National Tsing Hua University BEST Chinese Program seeks to engage in a collaborative language exchange that promotes Chinese language teaching and research while enhancing Chinese teaching pedagogy and teachers' training. The Center is located in the UHM Bio-Med building, T111.

On August 13, 2021, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) and National Tsing Hua University signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation and exchange between the two universities. A program agreement on establishing a Center for Chinese Language Education under the UHM College of Arts, Languages & Letters was also signed between the two institutions, determining the Center's mission and scope of work.

Prior to the signing, two visiting scholars, Meng-Ting Lin, Yu-An Lee, and one visiting teacher, Jing-Tian Huang, were selected from the candidates recommended by NTHU to fill the Center's visiting positions for the 2021-2022 academic year. Visiting scholars Meng-Ting Lin and Yu-An Lee were officially installed as part of CCLLE staff in July 2021. The Center also appointed one Graduate Assistant for the Fall 2021 semester to help with

teaching, tutoring, and activity planning. Additionally, one student helper was selected to assist with the office work.

The Center's staff, including the three visiting teachers and a graduate assistant (GA), have been working on content development for the Center's website. Meanwhile, the Center has begun building a Chinese Reading Room for Chinese language students at UHM. We had selected the first collection of books and sent the purchase order to the vendor. Within our first year of working together, we have held several events and activities that promotes Chinese learning and enhances cooperation with local institutions. We are working steadily to fulfill our Center's goals.



## CENTER ACTIVITIES

### Center Service

#### After-Class One-on-One Tutoring

Starting from the middle of October 2021, the three teachers served as one-on-one tutors for the Chinese Flagship Program. Each of them provided 4 hours per week of tutoring to Chinese Flagship students, aiming at improving students' Chinese proficiency in speaking, reading, and listening.

#### UHM Chinese Study Abroad in Taiwan

The Center and NTHU proposed establishing a study abroad program called UHM in Taiwan. The proposal was approved by the International Institute of Education (IIE), the funding manager of the Chinese Flagship Center at UHM. The proposed UHM in Taiwan Program became one of the seven IIE approved overseas study abroad programs for Summer

2022. Together with NTHU, the Center had been planning and designing customized curricula for UHM Chinese Language Flagship students. Ten UHM Chinese Language Flagship students attended the UHM in Taiwan Program during Summer 2022.

#### Teaching Assistance

Starting August 23, 2021, the visiting teachers began attending the UHM CHN 411 Advanced Mandarin Conversation course online from Taiwan as teaching assistants. Under the facilitation of the course instructor, the teachers organized small oral practice groups, class discussions, and provided individualized class assignment feedback.

## Professional Development

### Curriculum Design

The Principal Investigator proposed three Project-Based Language Learning (PBL) projects – (1) Tour Around Oahu, (2) Honolulu Chinatown, Yesterday and Today, (3) Sun-Yat Sen's Footsteps in Hawaii. The three visiting teachers and the GA were invited to join the project team and worked collaboratively with the Chinese Section's PBL working group to develop units for these projects. Each of the three visiting teachers were assigned to one of the three topics and was responsible for data collection, information research, and the development of the preliminary content. The completed units began field-testing at the UHM STARTALK Year-Round Program and the UHM Chinese Language Flagship Center in late-January 2022.

### Extracurricular Activities Design

The Center's three teachers actively planned, organized, and hosted the bi-weekly Chinese Corner event. The events were mainly cultural activities, including the origins of traditional customs, modern internet subcultures, etc. Chinese Corner is jointly sponsored by the Chinese Section, the Chinese Flagship Center, and the Center of Chinese Language Education. This bi-weekly event drew 20-30 participants from the UH System, local K-12 schools, and the local community throughout Fall 2021.

As collaborative partners, the three teachers and the GA also helped prepare and organize the Flagship student events, such as the Chinese Flagship Center Student End of Semester Gathering. They also served as mentors for the Chinese Flagship Student Council committee by supporting the committees' planning and operations.

## Extracurricular Events

### January 14, 2022: Moanalua High School Chinese Culture Presentation

Our exchange instructors from Taiwan were invited to Moanalua High School to introduce the twelfth month of the Chinese calendar, also known as LaYue in Chinese. This cultural presentation included how to make delicious Laba porridge as well as what traditions and taboos to follow during LaYue.

### April 8, 2022: Culture Day

Culture Day is held annually by the UH Chinese Flagship. On this special day, various cultural activities are carried out, such as Tai-Chi showcase, Chinese hair bun making, Chinese knot making, and calligraphy writing. Our Chinese Flagship students and instructors were the hosts of different booths. They prepared a series of fun activities for those who came to visit. Participants were encouraged to visit each booth and complete the Cultural Passport as a challenge while enjoying a day of rich cultural experiences.



Visiting scholar Yu-An Lee giving a careful demonstration to two participants about the art of Chinese knot making



Yu-An Lee

"In Spring 2022, we designed three teaching materials for the students' reading assignments. I designed Hawaii Trips and the other two teachers' project topics were Sun Yat-sen and Hawaii Chinatown. This was my first time designing teaching materials by myself. In every meeting, we discussed how to design the teaching materials better. After a semester of training, my skills went from knowing a little to meeting the requirements. My teaching ability has greatly improved thanks to this opportunity. This opportunity also taught me a lot about designing teaching materials and individualizing the teaching approach to each person's aptitude, personality, and interests."



Meng-Ting Lin

"Students of the Flagship program went to the National Tsing Hua University to participate in an intensive program this summer. In addition to adjusting to the climate and jet lag, students also needed to quarantine for 14 days. For the teachers, the biggest difficulty in teaching was designing the curriculum. Not only were courses both online and offline, but students also needed to learn Chinese while traveling around Taiwan. Teachers had to teach students a whole year's worth of Chinese courses in these eight weeks. Although every students' Chinese level ranged from basic to advanced, every teacher did their best to teach their students. In return, the students studied very seriously. After eight weeks of training, students and teachers both have grown rapidly under strong pressure. Judging from the students' pre-test and post-test scores, most students have made significant progress."



## TAIWAN STORY Moon Festival in Taiwan



In Taiwan, people tend to have BBQs under the moonlight to celebrate the Moon Festival. There are no origin tales for this phenomenon, because it is just due to commercial influence. A decade ago, a BBQ sauce company released a commercial ad showing a happy family reunion having a BBQ together. Afterwards, it became a trend to have a BBQ during the Moon Festival in Taiwan. If you visit Taiwan around September, you may often hear the question "Did you have a BBQ today?" as a greeting between people.



### October 24, 2022: Taiwanese Tea Culture (Chinese Corner)



Visiting scholar Yu-An Lee introducing the history of tea development in Taiwan to a room full of Chinese Corner participants

### November 21, 2022: Karaoke (Chinese Corner)



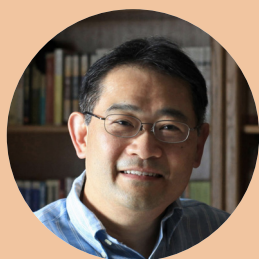
Visiting scholar Meng-Ting Lin demonstrating “Ai Ni,” the recent viral hit Mandarin pop song by Taiwanese female singer, Cindy Wang

## WORKSHOPS

### Integrated Chinese Grammar Teaching: The Importance of Linguistic Research for Writing Language Textbooks

#### Workshop Report

One of the goals of the CCLE is to enhance teachers’ teaching skills. As such, a workshop on pedagogy research and student learning was held online on November 30, 2022. We were honored to invite Dr. Kuo-ming Sung to host a speech on how to apply new linguistic research findings to L2 grammar teaching and learning. This workshop was done in collaboration with the East Asian Languages and Literatures (EALL) department at UHM.



**Dr. Kuo-ming Sung**

#### Wendy and K.K. Tse Professor of East Asian Studies Professor of Chinese and Linguistics at Lawrence University, WI

Dr. Sung received a Ph.D. in Romance Linguistics from UCLA in 1994 and then joined Lawrence University in Wisconsin, where he teaches linguistic theory and Chinese. He is currently the chair professor and head of the Department of Chinese and Japanese and the director of the Linguistics Program at the school. Dr. Sung’s main research area is the syntactic structure of Romance languages and East Asian languages, as well as the teaching of Chinese and Tibetan grammar. His

works include “A Reference Grammar for Teaching Chinese: Syntax and Discourse” co-authored with Professor Cui Songren (2022, jointly published by Springer Nature and Peking University Press), “Amdo Tibetan: A Comprehensive Grammar Textbook” (2021, Routledge Press), “Colloquial Amdo Tibetan” (2005, China Tibetology Press), “Introduction to Syntactic Theories” (1997, China Social Science Press, third edition in 2015) and other books.

The workshop was extremely well-received by the audience. Around 30 audience members attended including professors, editors of the current publishing version, experienced off-campus instructors, and GAs from a variety of departments. Inspired, they all agreed that linguistics research plays an important role in language teaching and textbook compilation. It also implies to be vital that the instructor receive professional training and be able to clearly provide pragmatics, functions, and forms of language features to students.

#### Highlights of the Topic

“Integrated Chinese” is the most widely used Mandarin teaching material in the United States. However, there are some unclear or arbitrary explanations of grammar in this series of teaching materials. Generally, there are 4 types of grammar illustration problems as below:

1. The instances in the texts are not compatible with the grammar that authors tried to introduce.
2. There are no comprehensive and correct explanation of the grammar.
3. The instances contain important grammar knowledge that have not been taught despite the authors believing students have previously encountered it.
4. The instances contain important grammar knowledge but the authors ignore it (intentionally or not).

For English-background learners, there are lots of unique concepts in Mandarin syntax, semantics, and pragmatics which do not exist in English, as well as some shared concepts rooted in English native speakers’ subconscious. Thus, the research outcomes of modern linguistics play important roles. Learners are unable to learn these new concepts by themselves, therefore, sharing this language knowledge becomes a necessary task of Mandarin teachers and of the fundamental criteria for writing language teaching materials.



#### Center for Chinese Language Education

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Join us bi-weekly on Mondays at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Biomedical Sciences Building (Room T111) for a taste of Chinese culture with our staff-led Chinese Corner!

Stay Tuned for Open Applications

Email: [best@my.nthu.edu.tw](mailto:best@my.nthu.edu.tw)  
Our website: [oga.site.nthu.edu.tw/](http://oga.site.nthu.edu.tw/)

National Tsing Hua University

# NTHU Huayu BEST Scholarship 2023

The Huayu BEST Program was established by the Ministry of Education in order to promote Taiwan's Huayu Education. Scholarships are provided to Mandarin learning students who would like to come to Taiwan to enhance their language proficiency. Meanwhile, they help facilitate Taiwan's English Education.

Monthly  
scholarships  
of **870 USD**

Travel &  
experience  
local life in  
**Taiwan**



## Eligibility

- Be above the age of 18
- Be a current full-time undergraduate student of University of Hawaii at Mānoa
- Do NOT receive any other scholarships or subsidies offered by any other institutions in Taiwan
- Do NOT have R.O.C. citizenship

## Obligations

- MUST: Undertake at least 15 hours of Mandarin language courses offered by NTHU every week
- MUST: Submit a brief report of academic life at NTHU before returning to home country
- OPTIONAL: Help facilitate our English Education (By participating in academic or cultural activities to interact with Taiwanese students)

## Unique Offers

- Offers a variety of courses in the fields of science, engineering, management, and humanities
- Apply for participating in the internship program at Hsinchu Science Park
- Join cultural tours to explore the richness of Taiwanese culture outside of class

## How to Apply

1. Submit application to UHM program coordinator
2. Candidate announcement
3. Online interview
4. Final nominees announcement Visa application & Course arrangement

## Questions?

Q: What are the fees that I need to pay?  
A: Round-trip airfares, quarantine accommodation, dormitories, tuition, visa fees, and insurance.

Q: How long will my stay be?  
A: From mid-May to mid-August.

Q: Will I have to apply for a visa myself?  
A: No, the program coordinators of NTHU will provide assistance. We will also help you arrange your accommodation and courses in Taiwan.