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# 1

UNIT

# The way of learning

“玉不琢，不成器；人不学，不知道。是故古之王者建国君民，教学为先。”

此刻，你已是一名风华正茂的大学新生。回首追逐大学梦的时光，你可曾想过，“大学”一词，代表着一种理想与追求，“大”，既是学问之大，又是大人之大。在这座智慧的殿堂里，你不仅要广泛学习，精进专业，更需修己正心，完善自我。

在本单元，你将通过阅读文章理解中国现代大学的教育理念，通过观看视频了解孔子的教育思想。希望你能够感悟大学之道，探索真理之源，探寻智慧之光，书写属于你的精彩篇章！

# Reading

## Pre-reading

A university's logo represents its spirit and values. It is an important component of university culture. What does your university logo look like? What underlying meaning does it convey, and what can you learn from it?

# HIGHER EDUCATION IN CHINA: Lessons from the past, visions for the future



**strive** /straɪv/ *vi.* 努力

**brilliant** /ˈbrɪljənt/ *a.* 才华横溢的

**milestone** /ˈmaɪlstəʊn/ *n.* 重大事件

- <sup>1</sup> Since the early days of ancient China, the purpose of education has always been considered to **strive** to improve oneself and serve the country. You may have heard of Confucius, one of China's most famous and **brilliant** philosophers and educators. He was a teacher more than 2,500 years ago. Reportedly, he advised his students that, "The Way of learning to be great (or adult education) consists in manifesting the clear character, loving the people, and abiding in the highest good."
- <sup>2</sup> Higher education in China has a long history. The establishment of the first official *taixue* during the Han Dynasty and the emergence of *shuyuan* during the Tang Dynasty marked significant **milestones**





in its development. Over time, the education system in China has **undergone** various **transformations**, including the establishment of modern universities in the late 19th century. Modern universities have preserved the traditions of the past and continued to promote the same understanding of education: educating people, studying extensively, practicing **earnestly**, and being determined and **dedicated**.

- 3 Educating people means **cultivating** the virtues of students, **nurturing** their talents, broadening their horizons, and ensuring their growth aligns with the evolving times. This belief is **personified** by Tsinghua University's motto, "Self-discipline and Social Commitment," which reflects Chinese people's striving for self-improvement and concern for all things. As one of China's most **prestigious** universities, Tsinghua is committed to pursuing education and research at the highest level of excellence and equipping students with the ability to develop innovative solutions that will help solve **pressing** problems in China and the world.
- 4 Studying extensively means **casting your net wide** and cultivating a mind full of curiosity. Sun Yat-sen University includes this exact phrase as the first part of its motto: "Study Extensively, **Enquire** Accurately, Reflect Carefully, **Discriminate** Clearly, Practice Earnestly." The university's founder, Sun Yat-sen, defined "Studying Extensively" as acquiring knowledge from ancient and modern, Chinese and foreign sources, including natural and social sciences, as well as social practices. This approach allows students to develop into individuals with lofty **aspirations** and extensive cultural knowledge. Built on a solid **multidisciplinary** foundation of **humanities**, social sciences, natural sciences,

**undergo** /ˌʌndə'gəʊ/ vt. 经历

**transformation** /ˌtrænsfə'meɪʃən/ n. (彻底的) 改变

**earnestly** /'ɜːnɪstli/ ad. 认真地

**dedicated** /ˈdedɪkeɪtɪd/ a. 一心一意的

**cultivate** /'kʌltɪveɪt/ vt. 培养; 塑造

**nurture** /'nɜːtʃə/ vt. 培养

**personify** /pə'sɒnɪfaɪ/ vt. 是...的化身

**prestigious** /pre'stɪdʒəs/ a. 有威望的

**pressing** /'presɪŋ/ a. 紧迫的

**cast one's net wide** 想尽办法寻找

**enquire** /ɪn'kwaɪə/ v. 询问

**discriminate** /dɪ'skrɪmɪneɪt/ v. 辨别

**aspiration** /ˌæspə'reɪʃən/ n. 志向

**multidisciplinary** /ˌmʌltɪ'dɪsə-plɪnəri/ a. 含有多种专业(学科)的

**humanity** /hjuː'mænəti/ n. (humanities) 人文学科

**pharmacology** /ˌfɑːməˈkɒlədʒi/ *n.*  
药理学

**put sth. into practice** 把某事付诸  
实施

**embody** /ɪmˈbɒdi/ *vt.* 代表, 体现  
(思想或品质)

**competence** /ˈkɒmpətəns/ *n.* 能力

**patriotism** /ˈpætriətɪzəm/ *n.* 爱国  
精神

**diplomatic** /ˌdɪpləˈmætɪk/ *a.* 外交的

**undertaking** /ˌʌndəˈteɪkɪŋ/ *n.* (重  
要的) 事业

**alumnus** /əˈlʌmnəs/ *n.* 校友; 毕业生

**ambassador** /æmˈbæsədə/ *n.* 大使

**counselor** /ˈkaʊnsələ/ *n.* 参赞 (外  
交部职衔)

**reputation** /ˌrepjəˈteɪʃən/ *n.* 名誉

**cradle** /ˈkreɪdl/ *n.* 摇篮

**renowned** /rɪˈnaʊnd/ *a.* 著名的

**devotion** /dɪˈvəʊʃən/ *n.* 奉献

**conviction** /kənˈvɪkʃən/ *n.* 坚信

**rejuvenate** /rɪˈdʒuːvəneɪt/ *vt.* 使恢  
复活力

technical sciences, medical sciences, **pharmacology**, and management sciences, the university encourages students to pursue their academic interests and explore a variety of fields in order to gain a well-rounded education.

- 5 Practicing earnestly means working hard to **put into practice** what students have already learned, turning learning into practical application, and achieving the “unity of knowledge and practice.” All universities in China emphasize the importance of applying what students learn in their studies, and Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) is an excellent example of how a university can **embody** the commitment to practicing earnestly. Guided by its motto “Learn with an open mind; Serve a great cause,” BFSU has trained a great number of professionals who have not only strong language **competence** but also great aspirations. As interdisciplinary talent with an international perspective, **patriotism**, and professionalism, BFSU graduates put what they have learned into practice to serve the country, especially its **diplomatic undertakings**. Many **alumni** have worked as **ambassadors** and **counselors**, earning BFSU a **reputation** as “a **cradle** for diplomats.”
- 6 Lastly, the core of China’s education philosophy can be found in “being determined and dedicated,” which encourages students not only to hold great ambition but to be dedicated to their goals. The University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS) is among the top research universities in China, **renowned** for its excellence in science and technology. It is a key institution for nurturing advanced scientific talent, with a focus on promoting innovation and societal progression. Under the motto “Knowledge, **Devotion**, Investigation, Virtue,” this university aims to guide students to pursue scientific causes with determination and **conviction**, as a way to **rejuvenate** China. Although many areas of study are very complex and require hard work, ranging from

**carbon neutrality** and **astronomy** all the way to **paleontology** and **quantum physics**, students are encouraged to be committed to their aspirations and dedicate themselves to their specific fields of research. The university helps its students develop a **down-to-earth** attitude to life, a sense of social responsibility, and a desire to seek progress and innovation.

- 7 The river of time flows nonstop day and night. The spirit of China's higher education has remained the same though the country has experienced many shifts over the centuries. The mottoes of universities in China typically borrow from the overall philosophy of China's education and summarize the characteristics needed to be an educated person. These mottoes have always been **adhered to** and **upheld** by generations of young students.

**carbon neutrality** /nju:'træləti/ *n.*  
碳中和

**astronomy** /ə'strɒnəmi/ *n.* 天文学

**paleontology** /i:pæliɒn'tɒlədʒi/ *n.*  
古生物学

**quantum** /'kwɒntəm/ **physics** *n.*  
量子力学

**down-to-earth** *a.* 务实的

**adhere to sth.** 坚持; 信守

**uphold** /ʌp'həʊld/ *vt.* 支持; 维护

#### Notes

The Way of learning to be great (or adult education) consists in manifesting the clear character, loving the people, and abiding in the highest good.

大学之道，在明明德，在亲民，在止于至善。（《礼记·大学》）

## Global understanding

Check (✓) the statement that best summarizes the text.

- A Young students in contemporary China uphold the mottoes of their universities and contribute to shaping the course of history.
- B The purpose of higher education in China has always been to encourage students to improve themselves and serve the country.
- C The development of higher education in China has been influenced by the establishment of *taixue* and *shuyuan* during different dynasties.



# Detailed understanding

Complete the following notes about some of the important principles of higher education in China.



## ① Educating people

- It means 1) \_\_\_\_\_ students' virtues, nurturing their talents, broadening their horizons, and ensuring their growth aligns with the evolving times.
- Guided by this belief, Tsinghua University is committed to pursuing the highest level of education and research and equipping students with the ability to develop 2) \_\_\_\_\_ to pressing problems at home and abroad.

## ② Studying extensively

- It means casting your net wide and cultivating a mind 3) \_\_\_\_\_.
- According to Sun Yat-sen, students should acquire knowledge extensively from multiple sources, which helps develop students into people with lofty aspirations and extensive 4) \_\_\_\_\_.

## ③ Practicing earnestly

- It means working hard to 5) \_\_\_\_\_ what students have learned, achieving the “unity of knowledge and practice.”
- Bearing this belief in mind, BFSU has trained talent who can apply what they have learned to serve the country, especially its 6) \_\_\_\_\_ undertakings.

## ④ Being determined and dedicated

- It means students should not only hold great 7) \_\_\_\_\_ but also be dedicated to their goals.
- Students at UCAS commit themselves to the pursuit of 8) \_\_\_\_\_ for the rejuvenation of China.

# Higher-order thinking

In the text, we learned about different university mottoes in China and the values they represent. Do you know any other mottoes of Chinese universities and which one impresses you the most? How do you interpret the core values conveyed by the motto? To meet the expectations set forth by the motto, what should you do during your university life?

## Language focus

Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the expressions in the box.

cast one's net wide    acquire knowledge    put into practice  
be committed to    cultivate virtues

- 1 Upon completing the course, you are expected to \_\_\_\_\_ what you have learned to be a more effective leader.
- 2 The college \_\_\_\_\_ enhancing the overall educational experience of students through co-curricular programs.
- 3 One of the central issues in Confucianism is how to \_\_\_\_\_ such as benevolence, loyalty, and filial piety.
- 4 It is important for university students to \_\_\_\_\_ to explore various fields of knowledge for holistic development.
- 5 College is a pivotal phase where students actively \_\_\_\_\_ and skills for future careers.

# Viewing

## Pre-viewing

What do you know about Confucius? Share your knowledge about him with the help of the following diagram.



### The "first teacher" in China



## Notes

- 1 **Is it not a pleasure, having learned something, to try it out at due intervals?**  
学而时习之，不亦乐乎？（《论语·学而》）
- 2 **The accomplished scholar is not a utensil.**  
君子不器。（《论语·为政》）
- 3 **(Cultivated people should) follow Dao, adhere to virtues, embrace benevolence, and be well-versed in various arts and skills.**  
志于道，据于德，依于仁，游于艺。（《论语·述而》）
- 4 **I looked up to them, and they seemed to become more high; I tried to penetrate them, and they seemed to become more firm; I looked at them before me, and suddenly they seemed to be behind. The Master, by orderly method, skillfully leads men on. He enlarged my mind with learning, and taught me the restraints of propriety. When I wish to give over the study of his doctrines, I cannot do so.**  
仰之弥高，钻之弥坚。瞻之在前，忽焉在后。夫子循循然善诱人，博我以文，约我以礼，欲罢不能。（《论语·子罕》）

## Vocabulary

### New words

**statue** /'stætʃu:/ *n.* 雕像  
**teaching** /'ti:tʃɪŋ/ *n.* (also ~s) 学说; 教诲  
**interval** /'ɪntəvəl/ *n.* 间歇  
**disciple** /dɪ'saɪpəl/ *n.* 追随者  
**ethic** /'eθɪk/ *n.* (~s) 道德标准  
**humble** /'hʌmbəl/ *a.* (阶层或地位) 低下的  
**discipline** /'dɪsɪplɪn/ *n.* 科目; 专业  
**accomplished** /ə'kʌmplɪʃt/ *a.* 造诣高的  
**utensil** /ju:'tensəl/ *n.* (烹饪用的) 器皿  
**insight** /'ɪnsaɪt/ *n.* 洞察力; 眼光  
**constructive** /kən'strʌktɪv/ *a.* 建设性的  
**criticism** /'krɪtɪsɪzəm/ *n.* 批评

**heartfelt** /'hɑ:tfelt/ *a.* 衷心的  
**doctrine** /'dɒktrɪn/ *n.* 学说  
**penetrate** /'penətret/ *v.* 穿过  
**restraint** /rɪ'streɪnt/ *n.* 约束  
**propriety** /prə'praɪəti/ *n.* (行为的) 得体  
**acknowledge** /ə'k'nɒlɪdʒ/ *vt.* 承认  
**resonate** /'rezəneɪt/ *vi.* 引起共鸣

### Phrases

**bring out the best in sb.** 把某人最好的一面诱发出来



# Viewing and understanding

1 Watch the video and complete the following notes about Confucius.



## 1 What is *The Analects*?

*The Analects* is a record of the 1) \_\_\_\_\_ of Confucius and his disciples. The book explores essential topics for learners, including 2) \_\_\_\_\_, thoughts on ethics, morality concepts, and 3) \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2 What are Confucius' beliefs about individual development?

Confucius encouraged the 4) \_\_\_\_\_ development of individuals. He emphasized the mastery of six 5) \_\_\_\_\_ known as the Six Arts. He believed that the value of knowledge lies in its practical utility for individuals and society.

## 3 What is Confucius' teaching philosophy?

In his teaching practice, Confucius provided guidance in a 6) \_\_\_\_\_, offering encouragement and support for further improvement. He also used 7) \_\_\_\_\_ to suggest directions and solutions.

## 4 What is Confucius' influence?

Chinese people hold great respect for Confucius, referring to him as the 8) \_\_\_\_\_. Some of his teachings continue to influence people's 9) \_\_\_\_\_ of education and beyond.

2 Watch the video again and answer the following questions.

- 1 How did the hardships of his early years affect Confucius?
- 2 Why do Chinese people consider Confucius the "first teacher" in the Chinese educational tradition?

# Higher-order thinking

From the video, we learned about the profound insight of Confucius and his enduring philosophy. Among the familiar sayings in *The Analects*, which one impresses or influences you the most? Explain why and how.

## Language focus

Translate the following sentences into English with the words and expressions in parentheses.

- 1 我们注重素质教育,旨在培养全面发展的各类人才。(well-rounded)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 中国的教育向来强调道德的培养,因为这不仅有利于塑造个人价值观,也能促进社会的和谐发展。(morality)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 改革开放以来,中国的教育事业取得了巨大的成就,赢得了世界各国的认可和由衷的赞誉。(heartfelt appreciation)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 当代中国人依然对孔子的核心思想怀有崇敬之心,这些思想继续影响着中国社会的各个方面。(hold respect for)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 好的老师会肯定学生们的成就,并知道如何让学生把最好的一面发挥出来。(acknowledge; bring out the best in)  
\_\_\_\_\_







## Unit task

One cannot talk about China, even today, more than 2,500 years later, without referring to one particular figure, Confucius. As an outstanding philosopher and educator in ancient China, Confucius has exerted a profound influence on higher education in China. His teachings, emphasizing moral values, holistic development, and the pursuit of knowledge, have shaped the foundation of Chinese higher education. These ideas still hold true for the principles and practices of higher education in China today, nurturing students to be not only knowledgeable but also morally upright and socially responsible.

The English corner at your university is organizing an event entitled “Confucius and Higher Education in China.” The event aims to invite both local and international students to discuss the profound influence of Confucius on higher education in China today. As a participant, you are eager to share your observations on this topic. The following points are for your reference.

- The life and educational philosophy of Confucius
- The fundamental principles of higher education in China today
- The influence of Confucius’ philosophy on higher education in China today

