

## Syllabus Details

The Mandarin Ab Initio course is designed around three main areas: language, texts and cultural awareness.

Within language, special attention is paid to the four primary language skills; accuracy and fluency; and the areas of vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and intonation.

## Language

### Primary Language Skills

Linguistic communication takes place in a variety of ways and through a range of difference media. It also involves a range of skills, including listening, speaking, reading and writing.

### Listening

Students at Mandarin Ab initio level should be taught to:

- Understand straightforward conversational exchanges
- Understand some colloquial language in social exchange
- Understand the overall idea or argument from a short speech or presentation on a prescribed topic
- Participate in a conversation appropriate to context and culture.

### Speaking

Students at Mandarin Ab initio level should be taught to:

- Convey straightforward, factual information and respond appropriately in spontaneous discussion
- Use some colloquial language competently in social exchange
- Convey information and express attitudes reasonably clearly within a brief structured presentation, and respond in spontaneous discussion on the topic
- Respond with some sensitivity to social conventions.

### Speaking

Students at Mandarin Ab initio level should be taught to:

- Convey straightforward, factual information and respond appropriately in spontaneous discussion
- Use some colloquial language competently in social exchange
- Convey information and express attitudes reasonably clearly within a brief structured presentation, and respond in spontaneous discussion on the topic

- Respond with some sensitivity to social conventions.

## Reading

Students at Mandarin Ab initio level should be taught to:

- Understand straightforward information that is explicitly stated
- Skim and extract key points from straightforward texts, including visual material and graphics
- Distinguish between key points and supporting detail in straightforward texts
- Understand some details of the text
- Understand some ideas implicit in the argument
- Identify basic elements of genre, purpose and audience.

## Writing

Students at Mandarin Ab initio level should be taught to:

- Convey straightforward information clearly
- Convey some straightforward concepts clearly
- Organize key points into a basic overall plan
- Provide some supporting detail for the key points
- Indicate personal attitudes competently
- Use language generally appropriate to purpose and audience