



CENTRE FOR
CHINESE STUDIES



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The First Ever Chinese Proficiency Test Site in Sub- Saharan Africa Established at Stellenbosch University

China's Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi, or HSK- status, has recently been awarded to the Department of Foreign Languages at Stellenbosch University. This is the first and only such site in Sub-Saharan Africa, which makes this unique and invaluable to students and business professionals who want to get recognized qualifications in the Chinese language. At present there are 161 test centers in 38 countries.

With the increasing number of students enrolling for the Mandarin language course, the HSK- status will enable students to obtain an internationally recognized qualification. This is a standardized test at the state level designed and developed by the HSK Center of the Beijing Language and Culture University to assess the Chinese proficiency of non-native speakers. After receiving official HSK status at the beginning of the year, Stellenbosch University plans to have its first test in late October, depending on the amount of interest from the public.

The HSK is divided into three tiers depending on the level of competency that a student has accomplished. HSK (Basic) depends on the knowledge of 400 to 3000 characters; HSK (elementary-intermediate) students must have mastered between 2000 to 5000 characters and HSK (advanced) tests the student's knowledge of 5000 to 8000 characters and grammar items.

With the Centre for Chinese Studies having Confucius Institute status, this development has enhanced the relationship with the Department of Modern Foreign Languages around the teaching of Mandarin. The Centre and the Department of Modern Foreign Languages have developed collaborative ties in promoting the study of Mandarin and Chinese culture.

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