

Nottingham's Chinese Community in Transition:

A survey of community cohesion, integration and university engagement

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Contents

Acknowledgements.....	3
Executive Summary.....	5
1. Introduction	10
2. Methodology.....	12
3. An overview of Chinese community in Nottingham	14
4. Major changes and challenging issues in Chinese community	18
5. Characteristics, status and considerations of local residents	21
6. Characteristics and voices of Chinese students	25
7. Perceptions and common needs	30
8. Conclusion and policy implications.....	32
References	35

Figures

Figure 1 Distribution of samples by region of origin.....	16
Figure 2 Number of people in household	22
Figure 3 Education background of local residents.....	23
Figure 4 Contrast between China and other Chinese in terms of friendship by job and dialect.....	24
Figure 5 Type of student accommodation.....	26

Tables

Table 1 Major channels and methods for disseminating and collecting questionnaires	14
Table 2 Distribution and growth of Chinese population in Nottingham	14
Table 3 Comparison of Chinese Populations between Nottingham and England	15
Table 4 Growth and distribution of Chinese students in Nottingham Universities	15
Table 5 Distribution of samples by residential status, region of origin and gender	16
Table 6 Distribution of samples by residential status and age band	16
Table 7 Distribution of samples by residential status and length in UK and Nottingham	17
Table 8 Distribution of samples by residential status and location of living	17
Table 9 Comparison of two surveys on Nottingham's Chinese community	18
Table 10 Comparison of main language use in different places	19
Table 11 Self-evaluation of English skill if it is not native language	19
Table 12 Do you know following organisations	20
Table 13 Do you aware or had experience participating in local community activities?	20
Table 14 Marital status by age and length of living in the UK	21
Table 15 Do you live together with your family?	21
Table 16 Do you own a house?	22
Table 17 Employment status and sector	23
Table 18 Scope of social contact/network	24
Table 19 Needs of yourself /family and if applicable your children	25
Table 20 Distribution of sample students by degree of course	25
Table 21 Who are your neighbours?	26
Table 22 Who are your friends in campus?	27
Table 23 Do you have friends outside of campus?	27
Table 24 Who are your friends outside?	28
Table 25 Working experience in local community	28
Table 26 Information sources of your voluntary work?	28
Table 27 What are you planning to do after the current course?	29
Table 28 Relation between work experience and future plan	29
Table 29 Do you have experience or are you willing to be involved in, following activities?	29
Table 30 Key issues influencing your life in Nottingham	30
Table 31 To what extent do you support following statements?	31
Table 32 Are you willing to involve in Chinese community project?	31

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Executive Summary

The globalisation of higher education has had profound impact on local economies and cultures. This is particularly seen in the case of Chinese students and Chinese communities in the UK. The number of Chinese students has increased six-fold from 2001 to 2011 while the local Chinese population in university towns or boroughs is double of that in non-university counterparts. Despite this quantitative growth, little is known about the social lives of Chinese students and their links with local societies including Chinese communities.

With a focus on the links and the potential of university students engaging with the local Chinese community, a pilot project was undertaken in Nottingham through a joint effort by the University of Nottingham and local stakeholders. It provided a basis for a robust survey to be carried out to understand the latest developments in the local Chinese community and the needs of local residents. Drawing from a Chinese community survey conducted by Nottingham City Council in 2002, a new survey was initiated by a meeting of the Nottingham Chinese Community Forum, which was financially supported by the University of Nottingham and its School of Contemporary Chinese Studies.

The overall aim of this survey is to reveal changes in Nottingham's Chinese community over the last decade and the role of universities in promoting Chinese community cohesion and integration. In particular, it addresses issues including 1) major changes since 2002 in both quantitative (population growth) and qualitative (structural adjustment) terms; 2) the contribution of Chinese students and their specific impact on local communities; 3) the variety of needs for and perceptions towards Chinese community cohesion and integration; 4) communication and social contact between different groups within and beyond the Chinese community; 5) policy recommendations for universities and stakeholders to work together for multiple benefits including student development, community cohesion and integration.

Based on multiple stakeholders' participation and support, a mixed methodology was adopted in the design and conduct of two interwoven questionnaire survey for both local residents and Chinese students respectively. For the former, visits with the Chinese community, business observations, focus group meetings and individual interviews were used in developing, testing and disseminating questionnaires while an online survey was used as a main channel for disseminating and collecting questionnaires amongst Chinese students. The surveys were designed and conducted in Nottingham from May to July 2013. Fieldwork lasted three months from May to June 2013 in Nottingham and involved around 700 people, leading to a total of 311 valid questionnaires collected which covered a wide range of people and groups in terms of dialect, occupation, identity of sending countries and regions across the Nottingham area (including Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire). However, we do not claim that the samples can represent all groups within the Nottingham Chinese community and there is a sample bias for over accounting new immigrants who are either highly skilled or family business owners from mainland China and under accounting of Chinese migrant workers and Cantonese speakers as well.

The latest UK Census suggests that by 2011 there were 8930 Chinese living in the Nottingham area of which two thirds reside in Nottingham City. Compared with 2001, the Chinese population has more than doubled and tripled respectively. As a result, the share of the Chinese in the total population has increased from 0.37% and 0.64% to 0.82% and 1.96% respectively-higher than the national average of 0.72%. To some extent, the growth and distribution of the Chinese population in Nottingham in the last decade are representative of the large number of local Chinese communities in England outside a few metropolitan municipalities (e.g. London, Birmingham, Manchester).

The rapid growth of the Chinese population in the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City areas in particular has mainly been caused by the internationalisation of higher education, leading to a more than eight-fold growth of Chinese students in the two universities--the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University--in the last decade. Taking into account that most Chinese students living in Nottingham City do not participate in the national census and the large number of Chinese exchange students/scholars excluded from the statistics of the High Education Statistical Agency (HESA), the total Chinese population in Nottingham City is likely to have been over 10,000 by 2011 of which more than 40% were Chinese students.

Bringing together the two groups of Chinese students and local residents, our questionnaire survey shows that 70% of respondents originated from mainland China while the remaining 30% is made up of people from other countries or regions such as Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan, and Chinese who are British-born. Furthermore, nearly two thirds of respondents are female while samples from students and local residents share a similar distribution in terms of region of origin and gender. Major differences between local residents and students, however, are seen in the distribution of age groups and the period of time these people have lived in the UK and Nottingham. For the age grouping, a normal distribution can be found in local residents. By contrast, three quarters of students are in the group of 18-24 years old. Amongst local residents, the mean lengths of stay in the UK and Nottingham are 14 and 10 years respectively compared with 2.3 and 1.7 years respectively for the Chinese students.

In comparison with results from the previous survey in 2002, major changes in Nottingham's Chinese community can be summarised as follows.

Firstly, Mandarin has replaced Cantonese as the dominant language used within the Chinese community. Secondly, there has been a significant improvement in terms of their command of English (spoken, reading and writing) amongst those whose native language is not English. Thirdly, there has been a decline of traditional Chinese community organisations due to the rapid growth of new immigration from China on the one hand, and the increasing impact of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) and the School of Contemporary Chinese Studies (SCCS) on the other. Against this background, the Nottingham Chinese community can be characterised as fragmented with low level integration due to a lack of common interests with low-level participation in major events within the local Chinese and mainstream communities.

Amongst local residents, 63% are married and 12% are single, leaving one quarter with missing information in this respect. Furthermore, three quarters of respondents live with their families and 10% with elderly people while the mean size of surveyed households is 3.4 persons. In addition about 70% of respondents have properties that have 3.3 bedrooms on average in Nottingham. One salient characteristic amongst local resident respondents is 45% of them have a university degree or higher education qualifications and nearly one quarter have vocational (or college) training experience. Regarding the employment status of respondents, about two thirds of samples have a full-time or part-time job while 20% are housewives. In terms of distribution of samples by sector, the largest is family business, accounting for 35%, followed by the private and public sectors which make up 27% and 23% respectively.

The poor status of Chinese community cohesion and integration can be understood through observing and measuring the scope and frequency of social contacts and networking amongst local resident respondents within or across group boundaries distinguished by dialect, occupation, identity (e.g. Chinese from mainland China and Hong Kong) and culture (Chinese vs non-Chinese). Our survey shows that the Chinese community is rather diverse in terms of social contact and few of them socialise beyond their dialect and occupation groups. Significant differences can be seen between those from mainland China and from other countries or regions. Within the former group there are more people of similar dialect groups with similar occupational backgrounds. Within the latter group people are found to be more open or good at communication with non-Chinese or people from other ethnic groups.

As to what local resident respondents need, either for themselves or their families, knowledge of the local educational, social and legal systems was ranked highest, accounting for over 40% of samples, followed by their need for English-Chinese translation, access to the NHS and skills training. In relation to their children, Mandarin learning and Chinese cultural interests were major concerns, followed by special courses for learning the Chinese culture.

Moving on to Chinese students respondents, one major focus was their social life on campus and in Nottingham. Above half of the surveyed students rent a house with other students off campus while 46% live in university accommodation. Furthermore, 40% live in neighbourhoods where there are Chinese students of the same identity. One quarter of them live amongst international and local students while 10% live with Chinese neighbours who are of different identities. Regarding social networks on campus, different patterns can be seen between Chinese students from mainland China and those from other countries or regions. The former group is overwhelmingly dominated by those with the same background (identity) – students from mainland China -- while the latter group takes a balanced approach towards all groups in general and gives more weight to international students than those of the same background. As a result, the latter is more open and socialises with different groups on campus compared to their counterparts from mainland China.

An index for community cohesion and integration can be developed based on social contact and friendship within and across group boundaries. For the group of other Chinese this is significantly higher in terms of the scope and frequency of their social contacts compared to

that for the group from mainland China in terms of not only on-campus but also local Chinese and non-Chinese communities.

In connection with social networking with local communities, about 40% of respondents have had working experience, of which 40% were paid and over half were voluntary. With a focus on those with voluntary working experience, their schools were listed as top in terms of sources of voluntary job information, accounting for three quarters of all cases, followed by the Student Voluntary Centre and student societies. Regarding the impact of student work experience on their career plan in the near future, over one third of respondents selected to go home while a quarter planned to further their studies and another quarter planned to look for a job opportunity in the UK. In addition, the variety of career plans is closely related to their region of origin and work experience as well. Students from mainland China and those with no work experience are more likely to opt to continue to study in the UK or to go home directly, while students from outside of mainland China or those with work experience are more interested in finding a job in the UK.

Regarding key issues to be addressed in the near future, there is a common need amongst both local residents and students' respondents for access to and the sharing of Chinese community information. However, there are significant differences between local residents and students in terms of which needs come first. For local residents, access to the NHS and representative voices on local councils are listed as top priorities. By contrast, students pay more attention to work opportunities in NGOs and communication with local British residents. Despite the aforementioned difference, both students and local residents expressed a strong desire to enhance collaboration between the universities and the local Chinese community. Furthermore, more than half of them have provided their personal contact details to receive further information and to be involved in Chinese community projects in the near future.

A number of survey findings and conclusions can be drawn against the research aims and objectives:

- The Chinese community in Nottingham and Nottingham City in particular has been experiencing a fast growth of population and structural adjustment in the last decade or so
- Driven by the internationalisation of higher education, Chinese students have become an important part of the Chinese community in both their needs for and support of the local community
- The Nottingham Chinese community is divided into many small groups and there is a lack of communication, interaction and cooperation amongst them -- a challenge and dilemma hindering community cohesion which has negative impact on the integration
- Different groups are different in terms of their attitudes and activities towards community cohesion and integration
- New momentum can be found amongst Chinese students and in particular those from outside mainland China while the socialisation of new immigrants from mainland China are more closed and homogeneous

- Promoting Chinese community cohesion and integration calls for the development and innovation of Chinese community organisations, in which universities can play more positive roles in terms of providing information, resources and coordination services for all Chinese groups
- A number of priority areas have been identified by respondents--communication and information shared between different Chinese groups, voluntary work opportunities for students to engage local stakeholders in Chinese community projects and Chinese language and cultural promotion

Based upon the above research findings, a number of policy recommendations are provided by this report:

- Create a Nottingham Community Innovation Park (NCIP) to bring together universities, local councils, civil society organisations and ethnic communities for community cohesion and integration
- Establish a Nottingham Community Innovation Committee (NCIC) for NCIP project coordination and also continue running the Nottingham Chinese Community Forum--a regular meeting for Chinese community affairs
- Create a new Nottingham Chinese Community Centre (NCCC) to support or foster local Chinese language schools, voluntary students and other relevant projects
- Encourage relevant schools and university staff to be involved in local and Chinese community projects as a part of research development and curriculum reform
- Conduct a pilot project for new mechanisms in recruiting and managing voluntary students to engage with Chinese community cohesion and integration projects

1. Introduction

The globalisation of higher education in the UK has made a huge contribution to not only local economies but also local cultures. Regarding the latter, the Chinese community in Nottingham offers a good example due to two reasons. Firstly Nottingham is a typical city in England in terms of population size and its experience of the impact of globalisation of higher education as its two universities, the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University, are highly internationalised in terms of student recruitment and training course provision. Secondly the Chinese community in Nottingham can represent Chinese communities across England in terms of their size and growth in areas where one or two universities are located. Nottingham's Chinese community, however, cannot represent metropolitan cities (such as London, Birmingham, Manchester) or those places where there are no universities. The aim of this report is to reveal the changes of the Chinese community in Nottingham in the last decade, and their links with universities and Chinese students in particular.

There has been a rapid growth in Chinese students in the UK and Nottingham in the last decade. This raises questions about how they participate in and influence the local Chinese communities. According to recent research, the number of Chinese students has increased six-fold from 2001 to 2011 while the Chinese population has increased 72.4 % nation-wide in the same period. Furthermore, new Chinese immigrants have mainly been concentrated in university towns or boroughs where the growth rate of the Chinese population is double of that experienced by local authority areas with no universities. Besides the quantitative growth, however, little is known about the social life of Chinese students and their links with local communities including the Chinese community.

Chinese students and local Chinese residents are often treated as separate issues or "parallel" communities" with little interaction. This perception is to be questioned if the potential and increasing influence of Chinese students in local communities are taken into account. Reflecting such trends, many academic scholars, civil society organisations and Chinese community leaders who attended an international workshop have called for establishing a voluntary student network to support Chinese migrant workers. Consequently, a pilot project has been done through a collaborative effort between the School of Contemporary Studies (SCCS), relevant stakeholders (e.g. university administrative departments, local councils and NGOs) and Chinese groups. Many outcomes have emerged, including a voluntary training course for students run by the University of Nottingham (Nottingham Advantage Awards module: practising global citizenship in Chinese society), student engagement projects (NHS, local Chinese Schools and elderly people), a "Chinese Corner" in the University of Nottingham's May Fest event (a community Open Day run by the University) as well as regular meetings and open space workshops fostering communication and discussion about Chinese community developments and student engagement projects. Feedback from participating students and local residents has shown clearly that the two groups share some common interests and mutual benefits.

The results from the "social experiment" above calls for innovative ways of thinking about the roles of universities and Chinese students in promoting Chinese community cohesion and integration. This is because Chinese students have become an important part of local Chinese community from various perspectives such as population, consumption of ethnic products and services, social activities and cultural promotions. The pilot project has also provided a sound basis for academic observation and measurement of the links between Chinese students and local communities.

Changes seen in the Chinese community in the last decade may not be easily described clearly without a robust survey and comparison of historical records. In this regard, thanks to the Nottingham City Council, a questionnaire survey was conducted in Nottingham's Chinese community ten years ago. Alongside the needs and aspirations of the Chinese community, special attention was paid to the "quality of life" which included the "community's awareness of and demand for services, activities and opportunities of particular interest to Chinese people and the barriers that might prevent access to these" (Nottingham Council, 2002: 3). While the previous survey provided a useful reference for the current survey design and data analysis, it is worth noting that the emphasis of this report has been put on new immigrants, including Chinese students, and their needs, potential and contribution to Chinese community cohesion and integration.

The idea of a survey project on the changes of Chinese community and relation with universities might never be put into the practice without the establishment of the Nottingham Chinese Community Forum (NCCF), a regular round-table meeting for Chinese community development and integration. Its participants include government officers from three local councils (Nottingham City, Broxtowe Borough and Nottinghamshire County), civil society organisations, Chinese community representatives, and university staff and voluntary students' representatives from the two Nottingham-based universities. To develop a joint collaborative strategy and actions, an agreement was reached at an NCCF meeting at the beginning of 2013 to conduct this survey focusing on the latest development and needs of the local Chinese community including Chinese students. Afterwards a project advisory group was established, led by Alex Norris (Nottingham City Councillor). The University of Nottingham and its School of Contemporary Chinese Studies have provided financial support to this project, and a group of voluntary students was mobilised to participate in the survey.

Based upon intensive consultations and discussions, an agreement was reached among key stakeholders to conduct a survey of the Chinese community in Nottingham with an overall aim to reveal changes in Nottingham's Chinese community in the last decade and the role of universities in promoting Chinese community cohesion and integration for mutual benefits to both Chinese students and local communities. In particular, the following objectives were agreed in designing the survey and its implementation:

- Major changes of Nottingham's Chinese community since the previous survey in 2002 in both quantitative (growth of population) and qualitative (structural adjustment) terms
- Contribution of Chinese students to the above changes, and specific impact on local

communities including Chinese community in terms of products and services

- Similarities and differences between Chinese students and local residents in terms of needs for, and their perceptions towards Chinese community cohesion and integration
- Channels, resources and possible mechanisms for communication, interaction and cooperation between different groups within and beyond the Chinese community
- Space and policy recommendations for universities and stakeholders to work together toward multiple participations, benefits and community cohesion

This report is organised as follows. The next section outlines the survey design and methodology of fieldwork followed by a background of Nottingham's Chinese community and sample profiles. Section 4 highlights the major changes in Nottingham's Chinese community since the previous survey in 2002 and also evaluates the progress of Chinese community cohesion and integration. Sections 5 and 6 examine special characteristics, status and considerations of local residents and university students respectively. With respect to space for enhancing university and local stakeholders' collaboration in the near future, section 7 brings the two groups together again for contrast, priority and assessment among possible choices. This report ends with conclusions and policy recommendations.

2. Methodology

Multiple stakeholders' participation and contribution described in the previous section have provided a sound basis for the survey design and implementation from May 2013 to July 2013. A mixed methodology was adopted containing the following elements:

- *Official data and secondary data collection.* UK Census data is analysed and compared with UK university data (HESA) by ethnicity, location and year between 2011 and 2001 in order to reveal the correlation between Chinese students and Chinese population in terms of growth and distribution at local level. It also provides a reference for the representativeness of Nottingham in relation to Chinese communities across England in the last decade. With participation and contribution from relevant stakeholders, furthermore, relevant information such as the needs and access of Chinese residents in terms of health services, education, elderly and city housing, safety and discrimination was also collected.
- *Chinese community visits and business observations* were adopted to disseminate the survey information, mobilise local resident participation, identify candidates for focus group meetings or in-depth interviews, as well as observe the latest development in Chinese businesses. In particular, two local Chinese weekend schools in Nottingham were used as major entrances and channels for information diffusion and questionnaire surveys targeted at new immigrant families from both Mandarin and Cantonese speaking groups. One week of Chinese business observations were taken, which involved more

than 30 Chinese restaurants, takeaways, traditional Chinese medicine shops as well as Chinese agencies for tourism and student services. Alongside the collection of general information such as ownership and business performance, special attention was paid to the needs of Chinese entrepreneurs and their views on local Chinese community cohesion and integration.

- *Focus group meetings and interviews* were used to collect qualitative information about different opinions, considerations or suggestions about Chinese community cohesion and integration. Such information is vital to design and tests our questionnaire before large scale printing and dissemination. More than 10 group or individual interviews were conducted which covered a range of groups or their representatives such as Chinese school headmasters and parents, Chinese restaurant owners or workers, refugee women and college trainees. In addition, a number of stakeholders and experts were also approached for their comments about Chinese community cohesion and integration, as well as suggestions for enhancing cooperation between the universities, Chinese community and other stakeholders.
- *Questionnaire survey* as the major means of this survey comprised two interwoven but different versions for university students and local residents respectively. Due to constraints posed by student examinations and summer holidays, the questionnaire survey for students were mainly conducted online (Survey Monkey), and the survey message was disseminated to targeted Chinese students via the International Office of the University of Nottingham to all Chinese students from mainland China, and a Singapore Chinese student society to other Chinese students from Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia. We failed to disseminate the survey message to Chinese students registered with Nottingham Trent University due to technical reasons. For local residents, two local Chinese language schools were used to disseminate self-administered questionnaires to all parents via the school's teachers and pupils, which were collected by the survey team the following week, giving another opportunity to remind or encourage them to participate face to face. For other local residents who do not have children with them (e.g. migrant workers), our Chinese business visits were also used for questionnaire dissemination purpose, as were community events such as church activities or community meetings. For instance, a group of student volunteers arranged to attend a community meeting to help elderly people fill in the questionnaire. Alongside the English version, both simplified and traditional Chinese versions were available for the local Chinese resident questionnaire survey in order to increase the response rate. In the end we managed to receive a total of 311 valid questionnaires, of which nearly half were completed online, with similar numbers of student and local resident respondents. However, we do not claim the questionnaire survey represents the whole Chinese population in Nottingham. There is a sample bias to new immigrants.

Table 1 summarise major channels, venues used for the dissemination and collection of questionnaires from targeted people.

Table 1 Major channels and methods for disseminating and collecting questionnaires

Channels	Targeted people	Visits/calls	Involved people	Participants
Chinese schools	Parents, teachers	10	200	80
Business visit	Owners, doctors, workers	30	100	49
Community events	women, elderly people	4	30	20
University campus	University students	2	50	17
Online survey	University students	2	300	145
Total	--	48	700	311

3. An overview of Chinese community in Nottingham

By combining official data and our questionnaire survey data, this section attempts to paint an overall picture about the Chinese community in Nottingham and differences between students and local residents.

The latest UK Census indicates that by 2011 there were 8930 Chinese living in the Nottingham area, of which two thirds live in Nottingham City (Table 2). The share of Chinese in the population of Nottingham was 0.82% and in Nottingham City 1.96%. Compared with 2001, furthermore, the size of Chinese population has more than doubled (2.4 times) in the Nottingham area and more than tripled in Nottingham City, indicating a rapid growth in the last decade. The growth of the Chinese population in Nottingham, in particular, has been driven by the rapid growth of Chinese new immigrants in Nottingham City, resulting in an increasingly centralised Chinese population from 46% in 2001 to 67% in 2011.

Table 2 Distribution and growth of Chinese population in Nottingham

Item	Chinese		% of all population		Growth
	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011/2001
Nottingham city	5988	1715	1.96	0.64	3.49
Nottingham shire	2942	2014	0.37	0.27	1.46
Nottingham total	8930	3729	0.82	0.37	2.4
City in total (%)	67.1	46.0	--	--	--

Sources: Author's calculation based upon UK Census 2011, 2001.

To some extent, the distribution and growth of Chinese population in Nottingham over the last decade may represent many Chinese communities in England. This is illustrated by Table 3 which compares the Chinese population in Nottingham and in England. The share of Nottingham in England's Chinese population was 2.35% in 2011, higher than the 2.05% of Nottingham in England's total population. In addition, the proportion of Chinese in the total population is 0.82% in Nottingham, higher than the 0.72% out of the national average. The big difference is the growth rate of the Chinese population in Nottingham at 140%--almost double

the national average of 72%. This indicates that Nottingham has one of the fastest growing Chinese communities across England.

Table 3 Comparison of Chinese Populations between Nottingham and England

Category	Chinese 2011	% of all population	Growth (%)
Nottingham	8,930	0.82	139.5
England	379,503	0.72	72.4
Nottingham/England	2.35%	--	--

Sources: Author's calculation based upon UK Census 2011, 2001.

With respect to the Chinese population in the UK, the attractiveness of Nottingham and Nottingham City in particular cannot be separated from the internationalisation of higher education over the last decade. The two universities, the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University, have played a leading role in not only attracting and recruiting Chinese students but also developing and enhancing business links with China, including the establishment of an overseas campus in Ningbo, China, by the University of Nottingham. Table 4 shows that the number of Chinese students in the two universities had increased eight fold to 2819 by 2011.

Table 4 Growth and distribution of Chinese students in Nottingham Universities

Institution	2000/01		2011/12		2011/2000	
	All	Chinese	All	Chinese	All	Chinese
Nottingham Trent University	19733	38	23813	1021	1.21	27.24
University of Nottingham	18709	290	30396	1798	1.62	6.20
Total	38442	328	54209	2819	1.41	8.61

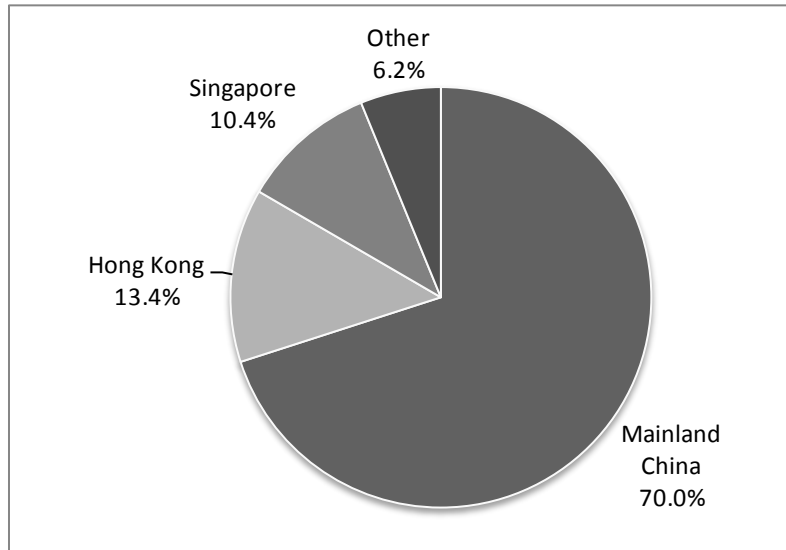
Source: HESA

Linking Table 2 and Table 4, we can offer an estimation that the real number of the Chinese population in Nottingham City was at least 8807 by 2011, of which 32% are Chinese students. The above estimation, however, is based on a number of assumptions including 1) all Chinese students live in the town centre; 2) no student stays in Nottingham once the course is completed; 3) there are no exchange students between Nottingham and Ningbo campuses; 4) there are no visiting scholars and their dependants from China, etc. Given the fact that the HESA figure is full-time equivalent and also most of the above assumptions may not be true, the real number of Chinese is likely over 10,000 and the share of students in the Chinese community could be higher than 40%.

The simultaneous growth of the Chinese population and Chinese students in Nottingham raises the question of links or relations between the two groups. By bringing them together, furthermore, we would like to ask--who are they, where do they come from, and what is their impact on the Chinese community in Nottingham? Such questions were addressed via our questionnaire survey. The rest of the report will present our survey data and analysis results.

Regarding the region of origin, Figure 1 shows that 70% of respondents were from mainland China, while the rest of the 30% came from places including Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and included British-born Chinese. It indicates clearly a dominance of people from mainland China (“China” thereafter).

Figure 1 Distribution of samples by region of origin (N=307)



Furthermore, Table 5 provides a contrast between students and local residents in terms of regions of origin and gender division. Interestingly, they share similar features in terms of the dominance of mainland Chinese and also female participation in the survey.

Table 5 Distribution of samples by residential status, region of origin and gender

Status	China	Other	Male	Female
Resident	69.7%	30.3%	38.4%	61.6%
Students	70.4%	29.6%	33.5%	66.5%
Total	70.0%	30.0%	35.7%	64.3%

What was different between the two groups, however, was the age profile. According to Table 6, a normal distribution can be seen in local residents which is in contrast to students amongst which three quarters of the samples fall into the age band of 18-24 years old. Bringing the two groups together, however, the group of 18-24 year old accounts nearly half (45%) of samples which seems to suggest that the Chinese community in Nottingham looks young and full of energy if Chinese students are accounted as a part of the community.

Table 6 Distribution of samples by residential status and age band

Status	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	60+
Resident	10.4%	21.5%	38.2%	25.0%	4.9%
Students	75.8%	22.4%	1.9%	--	--
Total	44.9%	22.0%	19.0%	11.8%	2.3%

The survey suggests that the mean length of time of local residents living in the UK and Nottingham is about 14 years and 10 years respectively (see Table 7). Furthermore, about half of them have been in the UK for more than 10 years, with 40% of them having lived here for between 3 and 10 years. This is in contrast to the length of their living in Nottingham where the vast majority (about 70%) are less than 10 years, and only 31% more than 10 years. Unsurprisingly, the vast majority of students have stayed in the UK and Nottingham for less than 3 years, with less than 30% and 20% respectively in the category of between 3 and 10 years. Bringing students and local residents together, however, that 85% have been living in Nottingham for less than 10 years and 54% for less than 3 years seem to indicate that the nature of Chinese community in Nottingham is a young and newly emerging community.

Table 7 Distribution of samples by residential status and length in UK and Nottingham

Location	Status	<3 years	3-10 yrs	>10 yrs	Mean (yrs)	N
In the UK	Resident	9.1%	41.3%	49.7%	13.9	143
	Students	72.3%	27.7%	0.0%	2.3	159
	<i>Total</i>	<i>42.4%</i>	<i>34.1%</i>	<i>23.5%</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>302</i>
Nottingham	Resident	19.3%	49.3%	31.4%	10.2	140
	Students	84.4%	15.6%	0.0%	1.7	160
	<i>Total</i>	<i>54.0%</i>	<i>31.3%</i>	<i>14.7%</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>300</i>

Further to the distribution of samples in Nottingham areas, Table 8 illustrates that over half live in Nottingham City and Beeston while the rest of Nottinghamshire area share similar proportions of 20%. Nonetheless, a few other respondents (5%) represent those who live in other counties such as Derbyshire or Leicestershire but use Chinese community facilities (e.g. Chinese language school) in Nottingham. It is worth noting that the vast majority (over 70%) of Chinese students live in the Nottingham city centre, which is in contrast to the more equal distribution of local residents living in Nottingham City, Beeston and the rest of Nottinghamshire. Regardless of the "other" category, the distribution of our survey samples in Table 8 is very close to the UK Census data shown in Table 2 in which Nottingham City account for two thirds of the Chinese population in Nottingham.

Table 8 Distribution of samples by residential status and location of living

Status	Nottingham city	Beeston	Nottinghamshire	Other
Resident	38.2%	33.1%	21.3%	7.4%
Students	71.3%	10.6%	15.0%	3.1%
<i>Total</i>	<i>56.1%</i>	<i>20.9%</i>	<i>17.9%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>

4. Major changes and challenging issues in Chinese community

Having witnessed the rapid growth of both Chinese students and local residents in the last decade, this section attempts to identify some impacts on the Chinese community via comparison with previous survey in 2002 (called “2002 survey” thereafter). Table 9 examines profiles and differences of samples in order to identify the comparability of the two surveys. Generally, there are many similarities in sample profiles, including the participation of students, location and public transportation use of respondents. It is more balanced in terms of male participation in the 2002 survey than in the 2013 survey in which nearly two thirds of respondents were female. In addition, there were more younger participants (aged from 18 to 24 years) and newcomers to Nottingham (less than 10 years) in the 2013 survey than in the 2002 survey. A big difference was the overwhelming dominance of respondents from China in the 2013 survey which is in contrast to an equal participation of mainland Chinese and Hong Kong Chinese (Cantonese) in the 2002 survey. The lower Cantonese participation in the 2013 survey is partly related to the focus of the survey on links between UK universities and the Chinese community, partly related to survey methodology in which Cantonese families who were not involved in the local Chinese language school were likely missing from this survey. In addition, the size of samples in the 2013 is only half of that in the 2002 one.

Table 9 Comparison of two surveys on Nottingham's Chinese community

Item	2002 survey	2013 survey
Theme of survey	Quality of life	Community cohesion
Samples: Size	620	311
Students (%)	48.1%	52.1%
From China	39.6%	70.0%
Hong Kong	39.1%	13.4%
Female	51.8%	64.3%
Age 18-to 24	32.9%	44.9%
Living in the city	61.7%	56.1%
>10 yrs in Notts	30.8%	14.7%
Public transport	45.6%	49.8%

The above differences, however, do not seem to prevent us from developing a comparison between the two surveys and drawing a number of conclusions about the changes in the Chinese community in Nottingham. The most salient change in the Chinese community is perhaps the transition of main languages from Cantonese to Mandarin due to the predominance of samples whose region of origin is China (70%). With a focus on local residents only, Table 10 provides details of main language use in the 2013 samples and also comparison of the results with the 2002 survey.

Table 10 Comparison of main language use in different places (%)

Survey	Category	English	Mandarin	Cantonese	Other	Total
2013	Native language	6.0	63.1	28.9	6.0	104.0
	Home language	17.4	52.3	28.2	8.7	106.6
	Between friends	48.3	65.1	34.9	3.4	151.7
	Working language	57.0	39.6	14.1	2.7	113.4
2002	Home language	20.7	33.1	50.6	11.7	116.1
	Between friends	35.9	37.4	52.2	10.4	135.9
	Working language	56.9	10.9	49.9	7.6	125.3

Taking a similar formatting with the 2002 survey, local residents in the 2013 survey were asked to make a self-assessment about their command of English skills if English was not their native language. Table 11 shows the similarities in terms of results in general and an obvious improvement in the 2013 survey in terms of the proportion of respondents whose spoken, reading and written abilities were poor or very poor. Bearing in mind that the 2002 survey included university students who accounted half of the samples, the improvement in English proficiency in 2013 is more significant. With regard to who might have difficulty (poor or very poor in Table 11) in listening and spoken English, the 2013 survey identifies those from China with a poor education background (primary or secondary education) who were more likely to suffer from such difficulties than other groups. This is different from the 2002 survey which highlighted the influence of age whereby the greater the age, the higher the probability of respondents having difficulties in their command of English.

Table 11 Self-evaluation of English skill if it is not native language (%)

Survey	Item	V. good	Good	Satisfied	Poor	V. poor
2013	Listening	23	29	34	7	8
	Spoken	20	25	38	10	7
	Reading	20	28	36	9	8
	Written	17	21	38	14	10
2002	Spoken	20	23	32	18	7
	Reading	18	24	33	15	10
	Written	17	22	33	18	10

A big challenge facing Nottingham's Chinese community today is perhaps the decline of traditional Chinese community organisations in terms of attracting and influencing new immigrants from China. This can be seen from Table 12 which asked the recognition of respondents of a number of local community organisations. Taking two major Chinese community organisations, the East England Chinese Association and the Nottinghamshire Chinese Welfare Association as examples, about half of respondents knew them in 2002, compared with only 20% in 2013. Furthermore, the influence on local residents of those two organisations is much higher than on students as few from the latter group have had chances to get involved in their activities.

Table 12 Do you know following organisations (%)

Name of organisation	2013	Resident	Student	2002
East England Chinese Association	21.2	38.3	5.6	54.0
Nottinghamshire Chinese Welfare Association (NCWA)	20.9	30.2	12.3	43.1
Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA)	50.2	47.0	53.1	--
Nottingham Confucius Institute (NCI)	33.1	42.1	24.7	--
School of Contemporary Chinese Studies (SCCS)	41.5	34.2	48.1	10.2

In contrast to the declining influence of traditional Chinese community organisations, however, Table 12 also shows increased impact from universities and student organisations. For instance, a large number of respondents (50% and 40% respectively) recognised the Chinese Students and Scholars Association and the School of Contemporary Chinese Studies, more than double than those who knew of the traditional community organisations. The above observation seems to suggest a process of gradual transition of the centre of the Nottingham Chinese Community from traditional community organisations to the new organisations which are based at the universities but are more open and socially inclusive.

In relation with such on-going transition, the Chinese community in Nottingham is characterised as fragmented with low level integration within the local mainstream society. The former is reflected in the lack of common interests within the Chinese community while the latter can be measured by a list of major social events in Nottingham in which few Chinese people are involved. Fragmentation and poor integration can be illustrated from Table 13 in which no item had received a participatory rate of higher than 20% except the Chinese Spring Festival Gala. Furthermore, over a half or two thirds did not know about those important events (except again the Chinese New Year Party) held within or beyond Chinese communities. Nonetheless, the knowledge of students of those events are significantly (over 20% for most items) higher than local residents. This seems to suggest there is potential for university students to promote Chinese community cohesion and integration in the future.

Table 13 Do you aware or had experience participating in local community activities? (%)

Name of event	Know	Participant	Resident	Student
Chinese Spring Festival Gala	62.4	22.8	55.7	68.5
Chinese Community Events	38.6	5.8	29.5	46.9
Community organised tourism	36.7	7.7	25.5	46.9
Local Church activities	37.0	8.0	23.5	49.4
University Community Open Day	40.5	5.5	27.5	52.5
Nottingham/Broxtowe cultural festival celebration	30.2	5.8	26.8	33.3
Local social event (e.g. "Olympic Torch", New Year Eve)	33.8	6.8	21.5	45.1
Local sport event (e.g. football)	32.5	2.6	18.8	45.1
Local Music event	32.5	6.1	18.8	45.1

5. Characteristics, status and considerations of local residents

Having highlighted some common characteristics and major changes in the Chinese community, this section attempts to examine special characteristics and needs of local residents, leaving the student group to the next section.

For local resident respondents, 63% are married and 12% are single. Marital status is irrelevant to ethnic background but linked to the age and length of residence in the UK. The younger group (18-24 years old) and new immigrants are more likely to be single while those married account for two thirds to three quarters of other groups. It is noticed that about one quarter of respondents selected "don't want to provide such information" (N.A.) and this is particularly high for new immigrants accounting 46%.

Table 14 Marital status by age and length of living in the UK

Category	Item	Single	Married	N.A.
Age	18-24	60.0%	0.0%	40.0%
	25-44	8.1%	73.3%	18.6%
	>=45	2.3%	67.4%	30.2%
In UK	<3 years	46.2%	7.7%	46.2%
	3-10	15.3%	66.1%	18.6%
	>10	4.2%	76.1%	19.7%

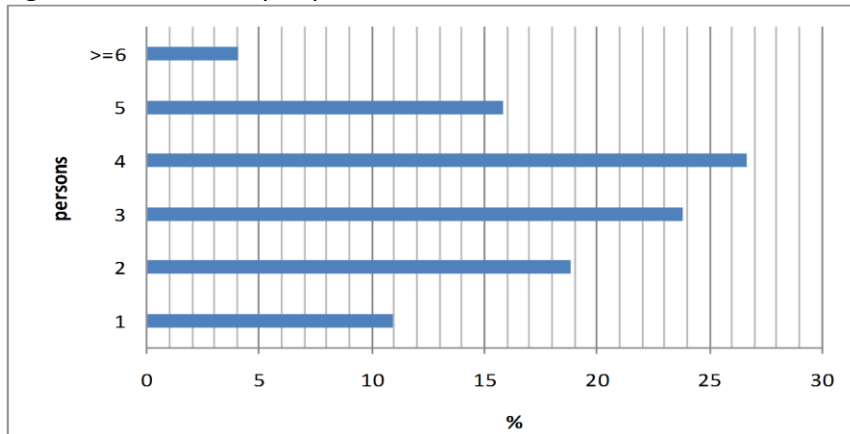
More than three quarters (77.5%) of respondents live with their families and the rest (22.5%) selected "no". Similar to marital status, family situation is closely related to age and length of time living in the UK (see Table 15). In addition, 10% of respondents live with elderly people.

Table 15 Do you live together with your family?

Category	Item	No	Yes
Age	18-24	86.7%	13.3%
	25-44	17.4%	82.6%
	>=45	9.5%	90.5%
Length in UK	<3 years	76.9%	23.1%
	3-10 yrs	25.4%	74.6%
	>10 yrs	10.0%	90.0%
Total	---	22.5%	77.5%

For those who live with families, the mean size of surveyed families is 3.37 persons, and the frequent number of persons in a household is 4, 26.7%. Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of family size amongst respondents.

Figure 2 Number of people in household



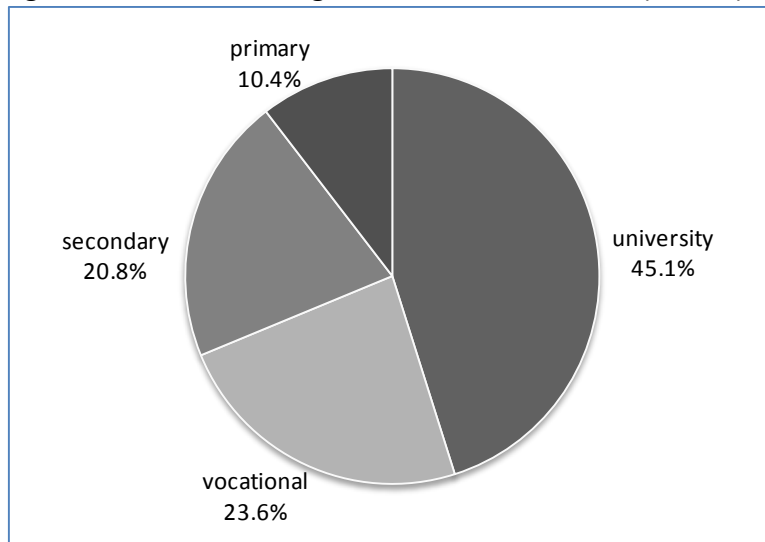
Further to the question about owning property in Nottingham, about 70% of respondents selected "yes" and 30% "no". For the "yes" group, the mean size of houses is 3.28 bed rooms, and 3-bedroom houses accounted for 50%. Table 16 shows that the distribution of private property is closely related to whether the family lives together and also the length of time during which they have lived in Nottingham. For those who do not have their own houses in Nottingham, 60% rent a house/flat to live, and the rest live in shared houses with other people or accommodation provided by others (such as employers).

Table 16 Do you own a house?

Category	Item	No	Yes
With family?	No	75.0%	25.0%
	Yes	19.8%	80.2%
In Nottingham	<3 years	62.5%	37.5%
	3-10 yrs	35.4%	64.6%
	>10 yrs	9.1%	90.9%
Total	--	30.9%	69.1%

One salient characteristic amongst local respondents is their high level of education. Figure 3 shows that 45% of respondents have gained a university degree or of a higher education background, nearly one quarter has vocational (or college) training experience, while the remaining 30% have secondary or primary education. New immigrants (those who have lived in the UK for less than 3 years) are particularly high in education level as over 80% of them say they have studied at university level.

Figure 3 Education background of local residents (N=144)



With regard to employment status, Table 17 indicates that about two thirds (65%) of respondents hold a full-time or part-time job while one in five are housewives who stay at home to look after their children, leaving the rest (14%) in the other category which included being retired or unemployed. Compared with the 2002 survey, there were more part-time workers and housewives but fewer retired people in the samples of the 2013 survey. Further to their sector of work, our survey shows that family businesses made up the largest proportion, accounting for 35%, followed by private companies and public organisations, accounting for 27% and 23% respectively. It is noted that about one quarter of respondents did not provide such information due to various reasons.

Table 17 Employment status and sector (%)

Status	2013	2002
Full-time	43.8	44.4
Part-time	21.9	17.3
In house	20.5	14.7
Retired	5.5	13.4
Other	8.2	10.2
Total	100	100

Social networks (or *Guanxi* in Chinese) within the Chinese culture are very important in the social lives of Chinese people. It can be used to measure the scope and extent of informal communication and cooperation between different groups within and beyond the Chinese community. For this purpose, in the questionnaire survey, we asked respondents to tick who are their friends--defined as those whom they meet or call on frequently due to common interests. As a multiple choice question, furthermore, they were asked to identify any one or all four types of friends according to similar dialect (Chinese1), different dialect (Chinese2), different identity (Chinese 3, e.g. Mainland Chinese and Cantonese), and non-Chinese. Those

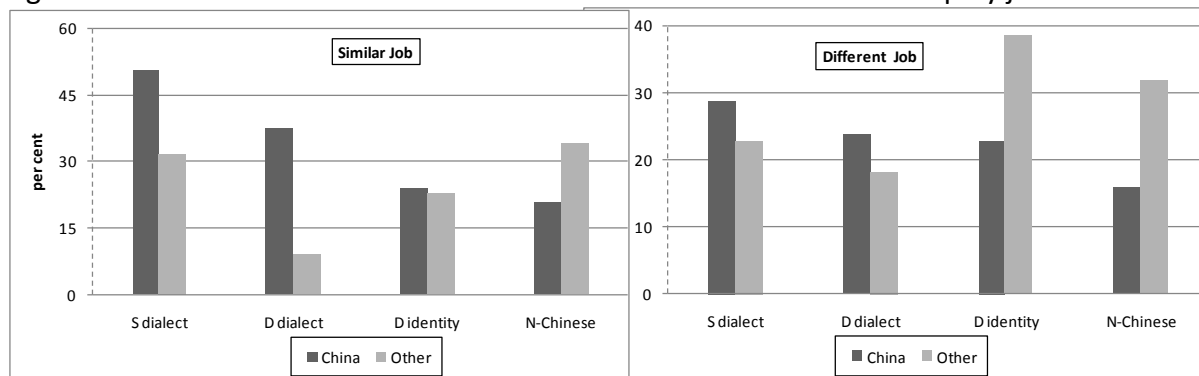
friends, furthermore, were divided into two categories according to job type whether similar or different. Table 18 provides an outline of the scope and variety of social networks amongst local resident respondents. A number of observations can be drawn from Table 18. Firstly, the Chinese community is rather diverse in terms of social contacts as there are no common patterns shared by the majority of respondents. It is confirmed, nonetheless, that people who share the same or similar dialect are more likely to become friends than people of different dialect or identity groups. Secondly, besides similar dialect group, job differences are not a major factor influencing friendship across the boundary of dialect, identity or ethnic groups.

Table 18 Scope of social contact/network (N=149, %)

Job type	Chinese 1	Chinese 2	Chinese 3	Non-Chinese	Total
	<i>similar dialect</i>	<i>diff dialect</i>	<i>diff identity</i>	<i>other ethnic</i>	
Similar	45.0	28.2	23.5	24.2	120.9
Different	26.2	21.5	26.8	20.1	94.6

Regarding the difference between China and other groups, Figure 4 illustrates a decline of friendships between the Chinese from mainland China according to similar dialect, different dialect, and then different identity to non-Chinese. This is in contrast to other groups where friendships with non-Chinese are equal to or even more important than those who speak a similar dialect.

Figure 4 Contrast between China and other Chinese in terms of friendship by job and dialect



Moving to the needs of respondents (or family) and their children (if appropriate), Table 19 highlights the results of respondents' choices. For respondent him/herself, local knowledge pertaining to the education, social and legal systems and English training ranked first by more than 40%, followed by English-Chinese translation, access to NHS and skill training, which accounted for one third or more. About one quarter of respondents considered Mandarin learning or sport activities while one in five mentioned that services for the elderly or activities matter. For their children how to improve Mandarin learning and enhance their interests in Chinese culture are chief concerns amongst respondents, followed by special courses on Chinese cultural elements such as Chinese painting, calligraphy, musical instruments and so on. One surprising finding from this survey is the need for children's personal development and support raised during our focus group meeting which was then included into the questionnaire

survey and agreed by nearly one quarter of respondents.

Table 19 Needs of yourself /family and if applicable your children

Rank	Yourself/family	%	Your children	%
1	local knowledge	42.3	Mandarin teaching	45.6
2	English training	40.9	Chinese culture	39.6
3	Translation	36.2	Painting/calligraphy	34.9
4	NHS service	34.2	Music instrument	32.2
5	Skill training	32.9	Personality/maturity	23.5
6	Mandarin	27.5	Sport training	22.8
7	Sport/Taichi	26.2	Drama/dance	21.5
8	Aged people	21.5	Personal tutor	15.4

6. Characteristics and voices of Chinese students

While about one third of the questions in the questionnaire for Chinese students were the same as or similar to those for local residents, the attention of the remaining questions was paid to their social life on campus and contact or engagement with local communities including the Chinese community.

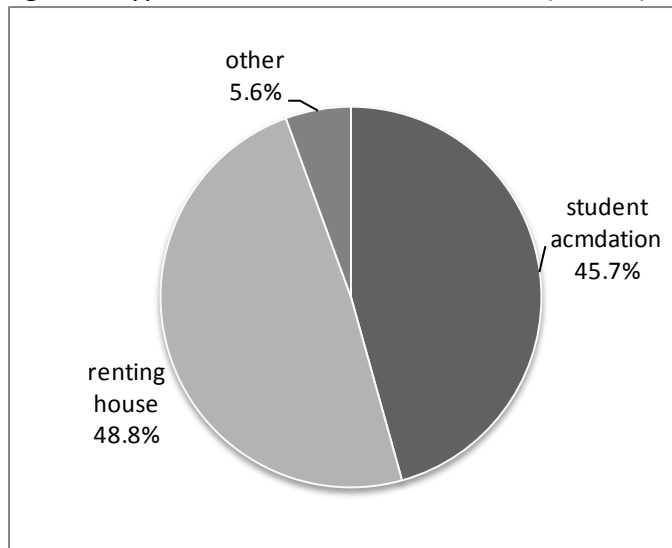
In addition to the profiles of student participants in Tables 5 to 8, Table 20 shows a distribution of sample students by the degree course. A balance can be found in terms of the proportion between PhD, postgraduate and undergraduate courses although the proportion of PhD student participants' rate is higher than that in reality. The high participation rate from those studying higher-level degrees seems to suggest an attractiveness of this project to those who live in the UK and Nottingham longer than other students.

Table 20 Distribution of sample students by degree of course

Course	N	%
PhD research	29	18.0
Postgraduate	55	34.2
Undergraduate	75	46.6
Other	2	1.2
Total	161	100

A dimension for observing the social life of Chinese students is their living environment which provides an important base for them to build their friendships and social networks. Figure 5 shows about half of respondents rent a house with other students off campus while 46% live in university accommodation, The rest stay in alternative accommodation including a few whose families accompany them and some who have properties to live in.

Figure 5 Type of student accommodation (N=162)



Further to their neighbourhood, just over half of respondents claimed to be living with Chinese students of the same identity (i.e. from the same sending country or region such as mainland China or Hong Kong), followed by those who live with other international students and local (British) students, the latter accounting for one third or 30% of samples. By contrast, a few respondents are in neighbourhoods where there are other Chinese who are of different identities. Given that the categories are not necessarily exclusive but overlapping (multiple choices being allowed), the last column in Table 21 shows a weight of different neighbourhood patterns in which same identity neighbourhoods account about 40%, international and local students about one quarter respectively, leaving 10% with Chinese students with different identities.

Table 21 Who are your neighbours? (N=162)

Type	Freq.	% of N	% of total freq.
Chinese 1 (same identity)	84	51.9	40.8
Chinese 2 (different identity)	20	12.3	9.7
International students	54	33.3	26.2
Local students	48	29.4	23.3
Total	206	126.9	100

Applying the similar principle and method to measure scope of social network (see Table 18), students were asked to identify their friendships among four types of students in the university campus. Unsurprisingly, three quarters have friends with the same identity and nearly half have friends amongst international students. Those with friends of a different Chinese identity and local students make up a similar proportion of students--about one thirds of respondents. Significant differences can be observed between students from China and from other countries or regions. For instance, friendships among those of the same identity are much more important for students from China than other students while friendships with international and local students are much higher amongst other students than students from China. Regarding

the weight of each type friendship in the social life of respondents within the campus, the last row of Table 22 shows that those with the same identity and international students account 40% and 26% respectively, similar to the neighbourhood pattern in Table 21. What is different is the shared proportion between the different identity (Chinese 2) group and local students in friendships compared with the high proportion of local students in neighbours.

Table 22 Who are your friends in campus? (%)

Source country	Chinese 1	Chinese 2	International	Local	<i>Index</i>
China	82.5	27.2	37.7	24.6	1.7
Other	56.3	43.8	64.6	45.8	2.1
Total	74.7	32.1	45.7	30.9	1.8
<i>Weighting</i>	40.7	17.5	24.9	16.8	--

Taking into account the nature of overlapping among different types of friends, an index can be developed to measure the scope of social networking among students within the campus. If 0 denotes no social contact at all for all respondents while 4 suggests that all four types of friendship are shared by all samples, the last column in Table 22 shows the mean scope for friendship 1.8 for all students 1.7 for mainland Chinese and 2.1 for other students. That means that the scope of social contact/friendship among sample Chinese students is far beyond the small circle of the same identity but include other groups of Chinese or non-Chinese students. In addition, other Chinese students are more open in terms of friendship with other groups than students from mainland China. Compared with their local counterparts indicated in Table 18, furthermore, Chinese students are also much more open and actively engaged with other groups of both Chinese and non-Chinese groups.

The openness of Chinese students is not limited to on campus but encompasses social contacts and friends off campus. For this purpose, we asked a question about whether the student has any friends outside of campus in Nottingham. Table 23 shows 70% of respondents saying "yes" and 30% "no". In addition, 83% of other Chinese students have friends outside of the university campus, about 20% higher than their counterparts from mainland China.

Table 23 Do you have friends outside of campus?

Source country	No	Yes
China	36.0%	64.0%
Other	16.7%	83.3%
Total	30.2%	69.8%

For those who have social contacts in local communities, we asked them to provide further details about what types of friends including their relatives or parents' friends, Chinese 1 (same identity), Chinese 2 (different identity), and non-Chinese. Table 24 shows that 40% of respondents have friends with the same identity, followed by non-Chinese (32%) and other Chinese with a different identity (22%). It is noticed that nearly 10% of respondents have relatives or family friends in Nottingham. This figure is double for students from other countries

or regions. In addition, this group is higher for all types of friendship, resulting in a high score of social contact index at 1.44 compared with only 0.85 for the group of students from mainland China. Clearly there is a significant gap between mainland Chinese and other Chinese students in terms of social contact and networking with local communities including the Chinese community.

Table 24 Who are your friends outside? (%)

Source country	Relatives	Chinese1	Chinese 2	Other	Index
China	5.3	36.0	17.5	26.3	0.85
Other	18.8	47.9	31.3	45.8	1.44
Total	9.3	39.5	21.6	32.1	1.03

In connection with social network with local communities, students were asked to indicate their work experience in Nottingham in the past. Differing from the high proportion of social contact described in Table 23, Table 25 shows that only 41% of respondents answered "yes" and nearly 60% "no". For those who have had work experience, furthermore, about 40% were paid work and over a half were in voluntary jobs, leaving the rest for both. The gap between social contacts and work experience in local communities may be related to other factors or channels such as religious activities which have also contributed to the socialising of students.

Table 25 Working experience in local community

Work experience?	N	%	If yes, which type?	N	%
Yes	63	40.9	Paid	24	39.3
No	91	59.1	Voluntary	32	52.5
--	--	--	Both	5	8.2
Total	154	100	Total	61	100

With a focus on those students who have had voluntary work experience, Table 26 identifies major channels used by students. An important finding from this survey is about the function of the school in disseminating, fostering and supporting students to take voluntary work. This accounted for three quarters of all cases, ranking it at the top. It is followed by the Student Voluntary Centre (SVC) within the Student Union, accounting over 60% with student societies in the third place.

Table 26 Information sources of your voluntary work?

Channel	School	SVC	Student society	Friends	NGOs	Other
N	28	23	9	6	4	5
%	75.7	62.2	24.3	16.2	10.8	13.5

Regarding the links and impact of students' work experience on their career plan in the near future, Table 27 shows the survey results amongst five choices. Generally, over one third of respondents selected to go home, and about half opted to either continued study or looking for a job in the UK, with the rest opting to go to other countries or not yet decided. By comparison between mainland Chinese and other students, both groups are similar in terms of the

percentage of those opting to "go home" but differ in their plans for continued study and finding a job in the UK--30% of mainland Chinese would like to continue study, almost double the figure of their counterparts from other regions. By contrast, 40% of the latter are interested in a formal job in the UK, more than double the former.

Table 27 What are you planning to do after the current course?

Source country	Study here	Job in UK	Go home	Other country	Yet decided
China	29.2%	16.8%	34.5%	6.2%	13.3%
Other	16.7%	39.6%	35.4%	2.1%	6.3%
Total	25.5%	23.6%	34.8%	5.0%	11.2%

Regardless of source country/region, furthermore, a significant influence of work experience on career plans can be found in Table 28. For the no-experience group, 44% of respondents are going to go home, double those who have had work experience; while another 31% considered the possibility of continuing their studies, compared with only 19% of those with work experience. For the work experience group, the most popular choice is finding a job to stay in the UK. This accounted 40%, more than triple the no-work-experience group.

Table 28 Relation between work experience and future plan

Work exp.	Study here	Job here	go home	other country	yet decided
No	31.1%	12.2%	43.3%	3.3%	10.0%
Yes	19.0%	39.7%	22.2%	6.3%	12.7%
Total	26.1%	23.5%	34.6%	4.6%	11.1%

With respect to volunteering among students and their possible contribution towards the needs of local residents identified in Table 19, respondents were asked to check their experience or work interests. Bearing in mind one third of respondents were preparing to go back to home, over 50% of respondents expressed their interests in all the listed items on Table 29, of which English support was placed on top, accounting for 60%, followed by Chinese language and personal tutoring. In terms of experience, over 30% of respondents have had experience in English teaching and personal tutoring (a large number of them in China), and a quarter were good at arts or sports.

Table 29 Do you have experience or are you willing to be involved in, following activities?

Item	English	Chinese	Translation	Aged	Arts	Sport	Tutor
Interests	59.9	56.8	52.5	51.9	51.2	55.6	56.8
Exp.	35.1	19.6	22.4	19	25.3	24.4	31.5

7. Perceptions and common needs

Having presented the experiences and special needs of local residents and students respectively, this section combines the two groups in order to identify their perceptions of and their common needs for Chinese community development in the near future.

To begin, all respondents, both students and local residents, were asked to identify major issues which influence their social life in Nottingham. By bringing the two groups' views together, Table 30 lists key issues of concern to respondents by high to low scores. It seems that there is not a clear picture of common demands shared by both local residents and students. Nonetheless, a lack of information about the Chinese community is listed as top accounting for 42% of respondents, much higher than any other topics. It is followed by lack of communication with local people, difficulties in access to and full use of NHS resources, lack of interaction within the Chinese community as well as a lack of work opportunities in the NGOs sector, which were raised by over a quarter of respondents. It is noticed that there are significant differences between local residents and students in terms of recognising and focussing their opinions on listed issues. For instance, nearly 60% of local residents were concerned about a lack of relevant information about the Chinese community, double the proportion of students. In addition, the NHS and voices on local councils were listed as the 2nd and 3rd most important issues for local residents but 7th and 8th for students. In contrast, students pay more attention to work opportunities in NGOs and communication with local British residents, which rank at the top and 2nd important issues but only 8th and 6th for local residents. In addition, discrimination and street hate crime are common concerns of some of the students and local residents although they are ranked differently. It is rather positive that the property safety is listed as bottom although slightly more students (20%) are concerned with this matter than local residents.

Table 30 Key issues influencing your life in Nottingham (%)

Issues	Total	Resident	Rank	Students	Rank
Chinese community information	42.4	57.7	1	28.4	3
Communication with local people	27.3	25.5	6	29.0	2
Access and full use of NHS	26.7	36.2	2	17.9	7
Interaction in Chinese community	26.0	32.9	4	19.8	5
Working opportunity in NGOs	25.7	15.4	8	35.2	1
Voices to local councils	22.5	32.9	3	13.0	8
Discrimination/street hate crime	22.5	24.2	7	21.0	4
Language/translation	20.3	30.2	5	11.1	9
Property safety	16.1	12.8	9	19.1	6

Despite different opinions or perceptions to key issues within the Chinese community, some common needs or directions have emerged from this survey which can be seen in both the

verification of relevant statements and offers of personal information and support for possible projects/actions in the near future. Based upon our pilot project and focus group meetings, we summarised four statements for respondents to verify or evaluate. The statements cover a wide range of themes listed in Table 31, all of which received high scores above 4 on average. The statement "Universities should encourage and support students to engage with local communities" gained the highest score at 4.32 (5 as maximum), followed by support for more Chinese cultural and social events at 4.24. While both students and local residents show their agreement and support to those statements, there is a slight difference between the two groups in terms of the extent of their support and priority amongst four arrangements. The local group has more desire for any project related to Chinese community development and give high priority to more Chinese cultural and social events. By contrast, students put their priority on the university's support of their participation and engagement.

Table 31 To what extent do you support following statements? (5 is totally agree, 0 is totally disagree)

Statement	Total	Resident	Student	N
Collaboration between Chinese groups	4.16	4.33	3.97	230
Students as a part of Chinese community	4.03	4.05	4.02	236
University's support and engagement	4.32	4.31	4.33	242
More Chinese cultural/social events	4.24	4.45	4.01	242

Another important indicator reflecting common needs and support to the Chinese community development project is reflected in the personal statements and contact information collected. Despite the nature of voluntary participation and anonymous surveys which was indicated clearly at the beginning of our questionnaires or covering letters, all respondents were given an opportunity to express whether they were willing to get involved in the Chinese community project later and if so, whether they would provide personal details for the survey team to contact later. Table 32 shows, roughly about half of respondents were willing to be involved in the project in various ways and furthermore, one third would like to offer voluntary support in necessary. While the level of interests and intention to get involved were similar between local residents and students, the extent of support from the latter should be treated as higher if it was taken into account that one third of student respondents were going to go back to a new life in their home countries.

Table 32 Are you willing to involve in Chinese community project (%)?

Request	Total	Resident	Student
More information?	46.6	49.7	43.8
Voluntary support?	32.5	33.6	31.5
Name of contact?	54.3	54.4	54.3
Contact address?	52.7	49.0	56.2

8. Conclusion and policy implications

Having analysed and displayed our questionnaire survey data, a number of research findings and conclusions can be drawn against the research aims and objectives described in the introduction section (see page 10).

- The Chinese community in Nottingham and Nottingham City in particular has been experiencing a fast growth of population and structural adjustment in the last decade or so. As a result, we have witnessed a series of changes, including a rapid growth of new immigrants dominating from mainland China, the popularity of Mandarin replacing Cantonese, significant improvements in English language competencies, an increased proportion of those with higher education, and more highly-skilled and younger people in the community.
- The above changes have mainly been driven by the internationalisation of higher education, leading to the rapid growth of Chinese international students from mainland China. Making up around 40% of the local Chinese population, Chinese students and the universities as well have become an important part of the Nottingham Chinese community not only in terms of meeting the needs for ethnic products/services, but also as sources of social support and a centre of dissemination of Chinese culture.
- Similar to other Chinese communities in the UK, the Chinese community in Nottingham faces a challenge and dilemma in terms of community cohesion and integration, which can be observed and measured by the scope and frequency of social contacts of respondents within and across group boundaries. By focusing on social networking across dialect, occupation and cultural boundaries, our survey shows generally that there is a lack of communication, interaction and cooperation between different groups within and beyond the Chinese community on the one hand, while the poor status of community cohesion is also related to the low level of community integration on the other.
- Despite the fragmentation seen within the Nottingham Chinese community, different groups are different in terms of their attitudes towards community cohesion and integration. Compared with local residents, Chinese students are much more open in terms of wider communication with different groups of students (e.g. international and local students) within campus, and also friendships and social contacts with local communities to various extents. Among Chinese students, furthermore, Chinese students from mainland China are poor in term of communication and integration with other groups either within the campus or beyond. For local residents, the poor status of community cohesion and integration is particularly true amongst new immigrants from mainland China whose social contacts are rather small and limited to those sharing a similar dialect and similar occupation.
- The expansion and transition of the Nottingham Chinese community requires a new momentum for the development and innovation of Chinese community organisations

in order to attract and bring all Chinese groups together. The necessity for organisational innovation can be seen from the decline of attractiveness and awareness of traditional community organisations. Nonetheless, the popularity of student societies and the School of Contemporary Chinese Studies seem to suggest an emergence of an alternative model of Chinese community development in which universities have actually become a centre of information and resources for all Chinese groups as well as a bridge between Chinese and mainstream communities.

- Our survey shows that it is a common demand from both Chinese students and local residents for universities to be involved and play a more positive role in promoting Chinese community cohesion and integration for mutual benefits. Regarding the potential and room for university engagement, furthermore, the following action areas have been identified and prioritised by respondents, including communication and information sharing between different Chinese groups, voluntary work opportunities for students to engage with local stakeholders for Chinese community projects, Chinese language and cultural promotion, etc.
- With a focus on the link between universities and local communities, we do not claim that the samples of this survey represent the whole Chinese population in Nottingham. This is particularly true in relation to migrant workers, whose voices are rather weak in this report. In addition, further research is needed to reveal the relation between community cohesion and integration, as well as working mechanisms and barriers to university engagement with the Chinese community.

Based upon evidence and survey findings described in this report, we would like to offer the following policy recommendations to universities, governmental and non-governmental agencies, Chinese community organisations and student societies as well as all Chinese community activists:

- Create a Nottingham Community Innovation Park (NCIP) to bring together universities, local councils, civil society organisations and ethnic communities for community cohesion and integration. Nottingham Chinese community cohesion and integration can be used as the first project jointly funded by two universities, three councils and the Chinese community in order to enhance collaboration between stakeholders for mutual benefits to both students and local residents.
- Establish a Nottingham Community Innovation Committee (NCIC) for the purpose of coordinating the NCIP projects, and also take charge of the regular meeting of the Nottingham Chinese Community Forum (NCCF). The latter could continue as a platform for information collection and exchange, public consultation for relevant project or policy proposals focusing on local Chinese community cohesion and integration. The NCIC should be made up of senior managers from all stakeholders from the two universities, local councils, NGOs and relevant community representatives.
- Create a new Nottingham Chinese Community Centre (NCCC) to support or foster local Chinese language schools, voluntary student projects and any other projects or

services related to the promotion of Chinese culture and Chinese community cohesion and integration.

- Encourage relevant schools and staff of the two universities to explore and be involved in local and Chinese community projects as part of research development, curriculum reform and extra-curriculum activities.
- Conduct a pilot project for new mechanisms in recruiting and managing voluntary students to engage with Chinese community cohesion and integration projects. Interconnecting with the NCCC, the project can work closely with relevant organisations (e.g. voluntary centres, NGOs, student societies, and local Chinese Schools) to explore and compare the feasibility of different mechanisms.

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转型中的诺丁汉华人社会：

关于华人社会凝聚力，融入与大学参与的调查报告

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摘要

高等教育全球化对大学所在地经济，社会和文化带来了深远的影响，而身在英国的华人学生和华人社区增长便是这一影响最鲜明的写照。自2001至2011年以来，在英留学的华人学生人数增长了6倍，大学所在地华人人口增长是非大学所在地华人人口增长的两倍。除了人口增长外，我们对于华人学生的社会生活以及他们同所在地华人社会的联系与互动知之甚少。

基于对华人学生及他们与当地社会联系互动的关注，我们在诺丁汉大学，地方政府相关组织的联合支持下，于2013年夏季对诺丁汉华人社会进行了调查研究。需要指出的是，早在2002年诺丁汉市政府曾组织力量对当时的华人社会进行过问卷调研，故本调查同十年前的调查相衔接。本次调查研究得到了诺丁汉大学及当代中国学学院的资助。

本研究旨在展现近十年来诺丁汉地区华人社会的变化发展以及揭示相关大学在促进华人社会（包括华人学生）凝聚和融入的作用。具体说来，它包括如下目标：1）自2002年以来华人社会的主要变化（人口增长、结构调整等）；2）华人学生增长及其对华人社会的影响；3）华人社会各团体对强化内部凝聚力与融入主流社会的需求与看法；4）华人社会内部以及对外的社会交流网络；5）就加强大学与地方相关部门合作，推进华人社会发展融入提出政策建议。

此项研究采用混合研究法，设计了不同的问卷分别分发给地方居民以及学生。对于地方居民，我们采取了访问，观察，焦点小组访谈以及一对一采访的方式，了解问题，分发问卷。而对于学生群体，我们主要依靠网络在线问卷的方式分发收集信息。调查的设计和实施在2013年5月至7月间完成。调研工作围绕诺丁汉地区的近700位华人展开，共收集了311份有效问卷，包括了来自不同背景，不同口音，不同职业和身份的参与者。然而，这并不意味着这些样本能够代表整个诺丁汉华人社区，因为此次调研的重点是新移民，以粤语为主的老华人以及华人劳工群体则样本不足。

最新的英国人口普查显示，截止2011年，在诺丁汉地区生活的华人居民共有8930位，其中三分之二生活在诺丁汉市。与2001年相比，华人人数在上述两个区域分别增长了两倍和三倍，而华人占当地总人口的比重也从 0.37% 和 0.64% 分别增加到 0.82% 和1.96%，高于华人占英格兰总人口比重0.72% 的平均水平。从某种程度上说，在过去十年中，诺丁汉地区的华人群体增长与分布足以代表英国华人群体的发展，当然，对于伦敦、伯明翰、曼彻斯特这类大都市则另当别论。

诺丁汉华人如此迅速的增长主要源于高等教育的国际化，导致过去十年中诺丁汉华人学生人数8倍的增长（主要来自于诺丁汉大学以及诺丁汉特伦特大学）。由于众多居住在诺丁汉的华人学生没有参加英国人口普查，并且大多数华人交换生和访问学者被排除在高等教育统计数据之外，所以在诺丁汉市的华人人口估计已经超过了10,000人（截止到2011

年)，其中40%是华人留学生。

我们收集到的数据中，70%的参与者来自于中国大陆，只有30%的参与者来自香港，新加坡，台湾等其他国家和地区，从性别来看，有三分之二的受访者是女性。当地居民和学生样本的主要区别，在于年龄分布和在英居留时间。年龄上，地方居民呈现正态分布，相比之下，四分之三的学生都在18-24岁之间。从平均居留英及其诺丁汉的时间来看，地方居民分别为14年和10年，而留学生仅为2.3年和1.7年。

与2002年的调查相比，诺丁汉华人社区的改变主要集中在以下几点。首先，普通话取代了粤语成为了华人社区中的主导语言。第二，广大华人对于英语的掌握也有了明显的提高（包括口语，阅读和写作方面）。第三，传统华人社区组织的影响力大幅降低，取而代之的是来自大陆留学生和学者的学联（CSSA）以及当代中国学学院（SCCS）日益增强的影响。与上述正在进行中的转变相关联，诺丁汉华人社区呈现出碎片化，融入程度低的特征，表现为彼此缺少共同的兴趣，也很少参与华人社区和主流社会组织的各类活动。

聚焦到当地华人居民方面，63%已婚，12%未婚，其余15%信息不明确。75%的受访者和家人住在一起，10%与老年人生活。每户居民平均为3.4人。除此之外，70%的居民拥有自己的房产，平均为3.3个卧室。在他们之中，最明显的特点是，45%的受访者区拥有大学学历或者高等教育经历，15%有职业（或者大中专科）教育的经历。对于就业状况来说，三分之二的样本人数从事全职或兼职工作，20%为家庭主妇。从职业情况来看，35%的人从事家庭企业，接下来是在私人企业或公共部门工作，分别占27%和23%。

通过观察华人社交范围以及频率，我们发现当地华人间的社会交流与融入状况堪忧。调查显示，华人社会构成呈现出多样化特点，表现为不同地域，方言及职业的差异与分割。最明显的差异，体现在来自中国大陆同来自其他国家地区华人之间，前者的交流局限于相同口音、相同职业的人，而后者则更开放，更善于与非华人群体交流。当问及他们的需求时，40%的参与者强调对有关教育社会法律知识的系统了解，排在第二位的是英中翻译，医疗和技能培训。对于子女教育来说，他们很重视普通话的学习以及培养孩子对中华传统文化的兴趣。

对于学生参与者，我们则更关心他们在校园以及城市中的社会生活。超过一半的受访学生是与同学合租在校园外，而46%居住在学校学生宿舍。至于他们的邻居，40%的受访者与相同背景的华人学生生活在一起，25%同国际学生或当地学生在一起，剩下10%和不同背景的华人同胞居住在一起。谈到校园内的社会交往，来自中国大陆的留学生和其他国家或地区的华人学生有着明显的区别。前者集中于相同背景的朋友圈，而后者的交友范围更广泛，并且更侧重于结交国际朋友。

社会交往或朋友圈范围大小可以作为社会凝聚与融入的一个重要指标。我们的调查结果显示，来自其他国家和地区的华人学生社交面更广，对外开放程度更高。相比之下，来自中国大陆的学生群体则不善于广泛交往，这并不仅局限于校园内，他们与当地华人及非华人社区的联系也非常少。

就华人学生同当地华人社会的交往而言，大约40%的学生受访者拥有工作经历（其中40%的人是带薪的，而半数以上的人是志愿的）。在志愿服务的人群中，主要信息来源是所在学院/系提供的，占到了75%。排在第二位的则是校内学生志愿者服务中心以及学生

社团。当问及学生的未来打算时，超过三分之一的学生打算回国发展，四分之一准备继续他们学业或在英国寻找工作机会。我们发现，学生的职业规划与他们的背景和工作经历密切相关。中国大陆留学生和那些没有工作经历的学生倾向于在英国继续学业或者直接回国，而中国大陆之外的留学生或者有过工作经历的学生则更愿意在英国寻找一份工作。

尽管诸多不同，无论是当地华人还是留学生，都表示关心有关当地华人社区活动的信息及其获取渠道问题。然而，他们对什么是目前最迫切的需求有着不同的认知。对于当地居民来说，更好地利用公共医疗资源（NHS）以及如何让地方政府听到他们的声音被认为是当务之急。而留学生则更关心他们在当地的工作机会以及与英国本地居民的交流。尽管上述不同，无论是学生还是居民都表达了希望强化大学与华人社区交流合作。此外，还有一半的受访者提供了他们的联系方式，以便更好地参与华人社区活动。

本研究的主要发现和结论如下：

- 过去十年中，在诺丁汉以及城市周围的华人社会，无论在人口数量上还是社区结构上，都经历了深刻的变化调整。
- 随着高等教育的国际化，华人留学生已成为了当地华人社会的重要组成部分，这不仅表现为他们对华人经济的需求方面，也体现在他们积极参与和影响华人社会方面上。
- 诺丁汉华人社会是由诸多小群体构成的，他们之间缺乏交流与合作，这也是改进/增强华人社会凝聚力和融入的挑战与瓶颈。
- 华人不同的群体对于强化社区凝聚与融入持有不同的态度和表现。最具有热情和积极性的群体是华人留学生，尤其是中国大陆以外的学生，而来自中国大陆新移民社交的范围则显得十分狭窄单调。
- 促进华人社会的凝聚与融入需要华人社区组织的发展和创新，而大学在这一过程中能够起到积极的作用，例如，提供相关信息和支持学生自愿者的项目等。
- 受访者列出了若干优先领域开展合作：不同华人群体之间的信息交流和分享；留学生志愿者服务机会有提供；以及中华语言和文化交流的提升。

基于以上发现，本报告提出如下政策建议供有关部门考虑：

- 建立一个诺丁汉社区创新公园（NCIP），以促进大学，地方政府，民间团体和少数民族裔社区间在有关促进社区凝聚与融入的项目方面开展合作。
- 成立一个诺丁汉社区创新委员会（NCIC）以便协调诺丁汉社区创新公园项目，并主持诺丁汉华人社区论坛（NCCF），以定期交流与华人社区发展相关的事务
- 规划建立一个诺丁汉华人社区中心（NCCC），以利于促进华文语言教育的提升，和支持留学生融入社会，学生志愿者项目的发展。
- 大学应鼓励相关的学院，教师和员工参与华人社区项目，并作为研究发展，课程改革和学生课外活动的一部分。
- 建议就大学生志愿者的招聘和管理问题进行一个专题研究，以便探索如何更好地整合相关资源，帮助学生参与地方社区（包括华人社区）的发展和融入项目。