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To: All Universities' Students

Call For Participation

The 25th (2026) South Africa Finals of the “Chinese Bridge” Chinese Proficiency Competition
for University Students in South Africa

Background

The “Chinese Bridge” Chinese Proficiency Competition was launched in 2002 and is organized by the Center for Language Education and Cooperation under China’s Ministry of Education. It is one of the most prestigious international competitions for Chinese language learners worldwide. Each year, more than 1.5 million young participants from over 160 countries and regions take part in overseas preliminary rounds, and more than 7,000 outstanding contestants are selected to travel to China for the global finals. Over time, it has become the world’s largest and most influential Chinese language competition, often referred to as the “Olympics” for Chinese learners around the world.

The competition includes three divisions: university students, secondary school students, and primary school students. In each participating country, local Confucius Institutes or related institutions organize the preliminary rounds, through which top contestants are selected to compete in the global finals in China. By using Chinese as a bridge for communication, young people from around the world deepen intercultural understanding, broaden their international perspectives, and become ambassadors of friendship between China and their home countries. Held in different cities across China, the global finals are broadcast by major Chinese television networks and attract wide international attention, providing an important platform for showcasing the achievements of Chinese language education worldwide.

The organizers of 2026 Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition for University Students is the Chinese Embassy in South Africa and the Center for Language Education and Cooperation (CLEC), and event will be hosted by the University of the Western Cape and

exclusively title-sponsored by Longyuan South Africa New Energy. The competition is scheduled to take place on 14 May 2026.

Theme of the Competition: One World, One Family 天下一家

Competition Date: 14 May, Thursday, 2026

Venue

Main Hall, University of the Western Cape

Robert Sobukwe Road, Bellville, 7535, Republic of South Africa

Who Can Enter?

-Eligible participants are South African university students currently enrolled in higher education institutions, aged 18 to 30, who hold South African nationality, and whose native language, as well as that of both parents, is not Chinese.

-International students who are not South African nationals may also register for the competition; however, they are not eligible to represent South Africa in the global semi-finals or finals.

-In principle, contestants who represented South Africa in the global semi-finals and finals in the previous edition may not participate in two consecutive years.

-The Organizing Committee reserves the right to interpret and determine contestants' eligibility.

Competition Content and Scoring Criteria

-Chinese Language Proficiency (Speech Segment), including the prepared speech and impromptu Q&A (70 points, 70%): Contestants are required to prepare a speech related to the competition theme. The speech should be between 3 and 5 minutes in length.

-Chinese Cultural Skills (Talent Segment) (10 points, 10%): This includes various forms of performance related to Chinese culture, such as Chinese song and dance, traditional musical instruments, folk arts, calligraphy, painting, paper-cutting, martial arts, and traditional sports. The performance should be between 3 and 5 minutes in length.

-Knowledge of China (Written Test Segment) (20 points, 20%): The written test covers topics including Chinese culture, national conditions in China, geography, and history.

Prizes and Awards

-First Prize: One winner will receive a First Prize Certificate for the South Africa Final and a cash award of R3,000.00. Subject to review and public announcement by the Organizing Committee, and provided that no objections are raised, the winner will be recommended to represent South Africa at the Chinese Bridge Global Finals in China.

-Second Prize (joint award possible): Two winners will receive a Second Prize Certificate for the South Africa Final and a cash award of R2,000.00 each. Subject to review and public announcement by the Organizing Committee, and provided that no objections are raised, the contestant ranked second overall will be recommended to represent South Africa as an observer at the Chinese Bridge Global Finals in China.

-Third Prize (joint award possible): Three winners will receive a Third Prize Certificate for the South Africa Final and a cash award of R1,000.00 each.

-Participation Award: All contestants who do not receive any of the above prizes will be awarded a Participation Certificate and a cash award of R500.00.

Due Date for Registration: 15 April, 2026

Registration Link

<https://forms.gle/SSd7Jga7ez8soSrw5>

For any competition inquiries, please contact:

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