

How learning Business Chinese helped my career

In conversation with **Jaime de Blas 戴海明**, Associate Director, Project Delivery Global Clinical Development



WHY LEARN CHINESE?

Being originally from Barcelona and having learnt English as an adult, I knew that it would be very helpful to be immersed in the country to not only learn the language faster but also have the possibility to **gain work experience in China and understand the different ways of working.**

BENEFITS OF TAKING A CHINESE COURSE

After moving back to London in 2011, I stopped practicing Chinese, but a few years later I made the decision to take Chinese classes in London. I studied Chinese Language and Culture for Business Programme at LSE. The course allowed me to **upskill business Chinese while also continue learning the language.**

JOB EXPERIENCE

I am originally from Spain and moved from Barcelona to London in 2005. In 2009, after a few years working in different hospital settings and clinical research, I decided to take a career break, move to Beijing, and start learning Chinese. After a year in Beijing, I was fortunate to find a job in a local contract research organisation. It was at that time that I became very interested in Chinese culture and language.

I am currently working as Associate Director, Project Delivery Global Clinical Development.

HOW DO YOU KEEP MOTIVATE YOURSELF?

As a language learner, you should know clearly why you want to learn. If you can **persist in practising everyday** and develop it into habits, then learning would be much easier.

I review Chinese every day whenever I'm free. Although I am busy with work, it is important for me to practice for at least 10 minutes. I have a great interest in learning Chinese, so it feels easy for me to follow my study. Although I am in London right now, I still keep in touch with Chinese friends, I often watch their we-chat memories and learn about the latest news in China.

HOW DID CHINESE SKILLS HELPED YOUR CAREER?

Mandarin skills helped me **finding a job** in China and working in China allowed me to **understand better cultural differences.** Technology and the clinical industry in China are booming, but thanks to my Chinese knowledge I'm able to use software applications in Chinese and stay connected with the latest developments in the pharmaceutical industry in China.

3 TIPS FOR CHINESE LEARNERS

- **Be perseverant:** don't give up, learning Chinese is hard but you have to know why you want to study and continue with that.
- **Use different tools:** nowadays there are so many different tools, applications and opportunities you can take advantage of.
- **Be brave to speak:** the more you speak the more courage you will have. Don't be afraid of speaking and it will really push your confidence.



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