Frequently Asked Questions: Bilingual Mandarin

Q: Am I applying for a Bilingual Credential?
A: You are applying for a Bilingual Authorization. The Authorization is in addition to your Multiple or Single Subject Credential. That is why when you apply to the program you will either choose our Multiple Subject or Single Subject program.

Q: How will I demonstrate my Mandarin fluency?
A: You will demonstrate your Mandarin fluency by taking and passing CSET Mandarin, Subtest III. This must be passed before August 1st if you wish to pursue the Mandarin Authorization through our program. Scan the QR code at the right with your phone’s camera for more information about the Mandarin CSETs and how to register.

Q: Are there any additional course requirements for a Bilingual Authorization?
A: Yes, there are additional courses that satisfy state requirements for the Bilingual Authorization that you must complete during your Credential year.

Q: What is the additional cost to get a Bilingual Authorization?
A: You will need to pass two CSET exams: CSET Mandarin subtest III (noted above) and subtest V (geography, history, politics, and culture). Each subtest costs $99. UC Davis does not charge an additional fee for the bilingual course(s) as they are taken along with your regular credential coursework.

Q: Will I be placed in a bilingual student teaching setting during the Credential year?
A: Yes, you will be placed in a classroom setting to practice your Mandarin teaching skills. Multiple Subject candidates will be placed in a bilingual classroom for the long-term placement. Single Subject Candidates must teach in a Mandarin setting during their short-term placement or for a minimum of 3 weeks, when possible.

Q: Does my Mandarin need to be perfect? Do I need to be a native Mandarin speaker?
A: You do not need perfect Mandarin (there is no such thing!) and you do not necessarily need to be a native speaker. There are many kinds of bilinguals and ways to learn Mandarin. However, you do need to have more than experience than just taking a couple of Mandarin classes would provide. If you can read, write, speak, and understand advanced Mandarin and communicate clearly, you may be eligible for a bilingual authorization.