

Dr John Dai

Citation for the Conferral of Doctor of Education (*honoris causa*)

Dr John Dai has been involved with the Charles Sturt University Joint Cooperation Programs in China since their inception 20 years ago. Indeed, he and his father were instrumental in establishing the programs, ensuring that Charles Sturt was matched with the 'right' partners, and took a key role in facilitating the first, and subsequent, program approvals through the Chinese Ministry of Education.

The current Joint Cooperation Programs partners span the breadth of China and, in line with the Charles Sturt aims to ensure regional sustainability and growth, focus on 'regional' Tier 2 and 3 city's; namely Jilin University of Finance and Economics, Tianjin University of Commerce, Yangzhou University and Yunnan University of Finance & Economics.

The academic delivery model used by the joint programs allows students the opportunity to take out dual awards from both Charles Sturt University and the Chinese University over a four year study period, all completed in China. Academics from both the Chinese partner universities and Charles Sturt teach into the programs in China.

The Joint Cooperation Programs has thrived since those early days 20 years ago when less than 100 students commencing, to having approximately 1,000 students graduating from the dual Charles Sturt and partner university degree each year. Since its inception, over 9,000 students have successfully graduated from the Charles Sturt Joint Cooperation Programs in China.

The status of the programs has continued to gain in reputation throughout this span, with many of the graduates going on to complete higher degrees in some of the world's most prestigious universities (including Yale, Cambridge, Oxford and Hong Kong University), while those seeking employment have achieved one of the highest graduate employment rates in China.

In 2017 one of our programs graduates was named the United Kingdom Chinese Student Ambassador of the year during her studies at Cambridge University.

The success of the Joint Cooperation Programs has ensured that the University has built a reputation in China as a high quality higher education provider, built research collaborations in the country, provided pathways for graduates to further study globally, benefited from significant revenue income and provided the opportunity for staff and students to engage across two continents to ensure we meet our internationalisation and global citizenship outcomes.

Dr Dai has worked tirelessly to ensure the future sustainability and growth of the Joint Cooperation Programs and has been a consistent and invaluable supporter of, and advisor to, Charles Sturt University.

For Australian institutions, China is a challenging environment in which to work, let alone achieve success. Dr Dai, as Director of Tertiary Education International, has assisted Charles Sturt to successfully negotiate the challenges and benefit from the opportunities provided by this complex country. More importantly, he has been dedicated to advancing opportunities for students globally.

Dr Dai is internationally acknowledged as a pioneer in global education, with unparalleled expertise and understanding of Sino-Australian education partnerships and pathways. He works closely with numerous universities around the globe: including South East Asia, Europe, the United States, Canada, China, Australia and New Zealand. He is, however, most passionate about Sino-Australian relationships. His expertise in this area is recognized by not only the sector, but by the Australian and Chinese governments alike.

Dr Dai has been a leader in developing business models that ensure the success of all partners, enabling Charles Sturt to be one of the first to commence program delivery in China and, over time, grow to become one of the largest and most successful Joint Cooperation Programs. His sage advice, deep business acumen, detailed understanding of the business and education environment in both countries has facilitated and consistently supported this success and growth.

Dr John Dai, a man on whom Charles Sturt University is proud to confer the award
Doctor of Health Studies (*honoris causa*).

Dated this Ninth Day of July Two Thousand and Twenty