

# A new Chinese name for the UH

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# Before the discussion

- Only very few Chinese students know the meaning of Hertfordshire after their graduation. It would not be a perfect education like this! I asked some students, none of them know it. Even some staff member didn't know.
- I know the meaning of Hertfordshire before I came to UK for my PhD in 2008, because a British astronomer I met on a conference corrected me. I did me PhD in astrophysics at UH from 2008 to 2012. Now I am a generic postdoc fellow at the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, which is also called the European Northern Observatory.

# Where is the current UH Chinese name from?

- It is from the name of “Hertford” on a Chinese translated map of UK publised by Sinomaps Press. Picked by the privious director of the UH office in Beijing.
- I bought a copy of this map in 2008 before I move to UH for my PhD, and I still own the copy.

# A cut of the map of Herts, in which Hertford in the middle is translated as 赫特福德

- The name was translated by pronunciation, improperly.
- No name of Hertfordshire is marked or translated on this map.
- The improperly translated name of Hertford is used as the Chinese name of UH.



## So 3 mistakes of the Chinese UH name are:

- (1) The pronunciation is wrong, and sounds a bit awkward.
- (2) The “shire” is missed.
- (3) Translation should be made by meaning if it has equivalence in Chinese, and Hertfordshire has.

● pinyin                      [hè tè fú dé]

(U.of) Hertfordshire ≠ 赫特福德(大学) ≈ (U.of) Hetford.

# How UH should be translated into Chinese and Japanese ?

- hart ford shire (University)

(U. of) Hertfordshire = 鹿 津 郡 (大学)

- 鹿津郡大学 will valid in both China and Japan, and easy to remember, sounds a lot better.
- Almost everyone in China know Oxford and Cambridge Uni. one of the big reason is that their Chinese name have meaning thus are easy to remember. A lot people would have difficult to remember them if they were called 奥克斯福德大学 or 卡姆布瑞德大学 in Chinese. Below are their well know Chinese name.

- (ox ford)

Oxford (U.) = 牛 津 (大学), Oxfordshire = 牛津郡

Cambridge (U.) = 剑 桥 (大学), Cambridgeshire = 剑桥郡

# The best translation of UH in Chinese and Japanese

- Pinyin: lù jīn jùn dà xué
- Chinese: 鹿 津 郡 大 学
- Meaning: hart ford shire university
- These characters in Chinese and Japanese would be the same, but the speaks differently. Chinese characters are used for formal names in Japan.

# How to translate by pronunciation?

- Pinyin: hā fú dé jùn dà xué

- 哈 福 德 郡 大 学

or

- Pinyin: hā tè fú dé jùn dà xué

- 哈 特 福 德 郡 大 学.

- The above one maybe better, shorter and sounds a little bit better.



# Are there problems to changes the Chinese of UH?

- The only worries is that the current name have been registered and used since ~1998. There are people in China getting to know the UH's Chinese name, but very limited. I believe will last a hundreds of years eventually. The proposed would have a great impact in China.
- The current Chinese name of UH and proposed name could be used for parallel in a couple years, to let people get used of the new name. the new name would be very easy to be accepted and popular. 鹿津 would make people think of 牛津 (Oxford). 郡 is a name only used for county in UK, which indicates it is a university of UK, not just somewhere.
- I believe with the proposed Chinese name, UH would have a larger contribution to the education of Chinese young generation and would be much well know in China and Japan.