



**The University of Johannesburg  
Confucius Institute in partnership  
with the Chinese Embassy**

*Cordially invites you to the*

**2019 Chinese Spring Festival**

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**DATE:** Friday, 1 February 2019

**TIME:** 15h00 – 18h00

**VENUE:** 9 Molesey Avenue, Auckland  
Park, Johannesburg

**RSVP:** by Sunday, 27 January 2019

To Ms. Yan Chen at

[ychen@uj.ac.za](mailto:ychen@uj.ac.za) or 011 559 7500

*\*Refreshments will be served*

*\*Henan Province Intangible Cultural Heritage  
Performance Group*

**Chinese New Year** is a Chinese festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional Chinese calendar. The festival is usually referred to as the **Spring Festival** in modern China, and is one of several Lunar New Years in Asia. Observances traditionally take place from the evening preceding the first day of the year to the Lantern Festival, held on the 15th day of the year. The first day of Chinese New Year begins on the new moon that appears between 21 January and 20 February. In 2019, the first day of the Lunar New Year will be on Tuesday, 5 February, initiating the Year of the Pig.

Chinese New Year is one of the world's most prominent and celebrated festivals, and is the cause of the largest annual mass human migration in the world. It is a major holiday in Greater China and has strongly influenced the lunar new year celebrations of China's neighbouring cultures, including the Korean New Year, the Tet of Vietnam, and the Losar of Tibet. It is also celebrated worldwide in countries with significant Overseas Chinese populations.

Chinese New Year is associated with several myths and customs. The festival was traditionally a time to honour deities as well as ancestors. Within China, regional customs and traditions concerning the celebration of the New Year vary widely, and the evening preceding Chinese New Year's Day is frequently regarded as an occasion for Chinese families to gather for the annual reunion dinner. It is also traditional for every family to thoroughly clean their house, in order to sweep away any ill-fortune and to make way for incoming good luck. Another custom is the decoration of windows and doors with red paper-cuts and couplets. Other activities include lighting firecrackers and giving money in red paper envelopes. For the northern regions of China, dumplings are featured prominently in meals celebrating the festival.

In recent years, the Spring Festival party broadcast on China Central Television Station (CCTV) is an essential entertainment for the Chinese both at home and abroad. **It is within this context that the University of Johannesburg Confucius Institute invites you to join us in celebrating this important date on the Chinese calendar.**



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