

Writing Guidelines

We recommend you start by familiarising yourself with our content and our categories. This will help you decide how best to frame your article.

If you're preparing to submit a piece to us, please adhere to the following length guidelines:

News articles (Category: Diaspora Hub) - 500 words

Think pieces (Laikan) - 800 – 1200 words*

Academic pieces 1500 – 2000 words*

First person essays – 600 – 1500*

*In some situations we'll allow these pieces to be published in two separate parts, effectively allowing longer submissions.

Spellings and capitalisation – Here are some rules specific to BLC

Capital 'B' in Black. As a normal colour adjective we use it in lower case, ie. black.

Capdown for job titles ie. He was a janitor.

Covid-19, not COVID19 or COVID

WeChat - not weixin or wechat or WECHAT

Capitalisation for acronyms ie. FOCAC

Quotation marks for direct quotes: We use "double" quotation marks, not 'single'

Chinese words : Romanised words with Hanzi (汉字) in brackets

Avoid repetition of words

Links: Never include the 'https://'

For everything else, we adhere to the [Guardian's](#) writing style guidelines

Writing Guidelines

Spelling: We use British spelling –

American vs. British Spelling Differences Quick Reference Chart

-ED vs. -T

American	British
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• dreamed• learned• leaped• burned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• dreamt• learnt• leapt• burnt

-DG vs. -DGE

American	British
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• aging• abridgment• judgment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ageing• abridgement• judgement

-ENSE vs. -ENCE

American	British
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• defense• license• pretense	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• defence• licence• pretence

Common Words

American	British
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• jewelry• draft• pajamas• plow• program• tire• aluminum• mustache• mommy• specialty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• jewellery• draught• pyjamas• plough• programme• tyre• aluminium• moustache• mummy• speciality

-ER vs. -RE

American	British
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• center• meter• theater	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• centre• metre• theatre

-OG vs. -OGUE

American	British
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• analog• catalog• dialog	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• analogue• catalogue• dialogue

-K vs. -QUE

American	British
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• bank• check• checker	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• banque• cheque• chequer

-OR vs. -OUR

American	British
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• color• favorite• honor• armor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• colour• favourite• honour• armour

-LL vs. -L

American	British
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• enrollment• fulfill• skillful	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• enrolment• fulfil• skilful

-E vs. -OE or -AE

American	British
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• encyclopedia• maneuver• medieval• leukemia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• encyclopaedia• manoeuvre• mediaeval• lukaemia

-ZE vs. -SE

American	British
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• analyze• criticize• memorize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• analyse• criticise• memorise

for more on what this means see [here](#)

Writing Guidelines

Additional info

Remember – our content is read by people with varying understandings of China. If you mention a particularly obscure or less commonly known name, organisation, concept or more – please highlight it and provide a suggested definition with sources.

Why? As a platform that prides itself on its ability to explain and convey meaning to our audience, we have developed a glossary function, allowing us to provide definitions in our articles.

Please list your sources – this helps us ensure that assertions made in your piece can be verified

Once your submission is accepted, please be prepared to provide us with a brief bio of yourself (less than 150 words) and a picture. if you'd prefer anonymity, please choose a pen name.

Have pictures we can use for the article? - send them along with your piece. Be sure to state who took the images and how we have permission to use them. No pictures? We'll sort it!

Remember, **we reserve the right to edit your article** - but you will be sent it prior to its publish.