



Nathaniel Ahrens

Executive Director, American Mandarin Society

Nathaniel Ahrens is the executive director and founder of the American Mandarin Society, a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the development of the future stewards of U.S.-China relations. He is also the president of a Chinese-language learning software company, Nimble Lingo, and serves as a senior advisor at The Crumpton Group.

Ahrens was previously the Director of China Affairs for the University of Maryland (UMD). Prior to joining UMD, Ahrens was deputy director and fellow with the Hills Program on Governance at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and was formerly an adjunct fellow with the Freeman Chair in China Studies, also at CSIS. In 2010 he was a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Previously, he worked for ten years in China. He was senior product manager and director of international sales for Intrinsic Technology, a Shanghai-based telecommunications software provider and also founded Shanghai Pack Ltd., a luxury-brand packaging company based in Shanghai and Paris. Ahrens also spent a year managing cruise ships on the Yangtze River.

Ahrens is a member of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and the Institute of Current World Affairs. He holds a master's degree in public policy from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies with a concentration in international economics, an A.B. from Vassar College, and studied at Beijing Language and Culture University.