

# The Multidimensional Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness, Version 2 (MAIA-2): Translation and Psychometric Properties of the Chinese Version

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The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest

### *Author contribution statement*

Binyu Teng: Conceptualization, Investigation, Data curation, Formal analysis, Writing - original draft.

Dan Wang: Data curation, Writing - review & editing.

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Hui Zhou: Data curation.

Tengfei Wang: Data curation, Formal analysis.

Wolf E. Mehling: Original author, Writing - review.

Yuzheng Hu: Conceptualization, Data curation, Writing - review & editing, Funding acquisition.

### *Keywords*

Multidimensional Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness, Reliability, validity, interoception, Interoceptive Awareness, MAIA-2

### *Abstract*

Word count: 335

**Background:** The Multidimensional Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness (MAIA) is a self-report questionnaire developed by Dr. Mehling that has been widely used to assess multiple dimensions of interoceptive awareness. To further improve the MAIA, Mehling developed the Multidimensional Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness, Version 2 (MAIA-2). The goal of this study is to systematically translate the MAIA-2 into Chinese and to investigate the psychometric properties of the Chinese version (MAIA-2C). **Methods:** The translation and adaptation of the questionnaire was conducted according to Beaton's method. A total number of 627 participants were enrolled and completed the survey. The entire sample was randomly divided into a training sample ( $n = 300$ , 47.8%) and a validation sample ( $n = 327$ , 52.2%) for a cross-validation. Exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was used to identify the factor structure of the MAIA-2C in the training sample while confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was used to test the factor structure obtained by EFA. The reliability of the MAIA-2C was indicated by Cronbach's alpha. The convergent and discriminant validity were assessed by Pearson intercorrelations between the MAIA-2C and the Five-Facet Mindfulness Questionnaire (FFMQ) and State-Trait Anxiety Inventory-Trait anxiety (STAI-T).

**Results:** The EFA results showed an initial 10-factor model, but some items (1, 2, 3, 4, 15, 16) were deleted because they did not yield the original subscale construct. Eventually a 7-factor model represented the best model fit. The CFA results represented a **good model** ( $\chi^2/df = 2.170$ ,  $RMSEA = 0.060$ ,  $SRMR = 0.0810$ ,  $CFI = 0.890$ ). **The Cronbach's alpha was 0.822 for the total scale and ranged from 0.656 to 0.838 for the subscales.** The results of convergent and discriminant validity showed that most MAIA-2C subscales were correlated with the total and subscales of FFMQ ( $r = -0.342 \sim 0.535$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), and all of the subscales of the MAIA-2C showed negative correlations with the STAI-T total score ( $r = -0.352 \sim -0.080$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** The MAIA-2C is a valid and reliable instrument for evaluating multiple dimensions of interoceptive awareness in a Chinese population.

### *Contribution to the field*

Interoceptive awareness, referring to one's beliefs and consciousness about their interoceptive ability, is thought to play an important role in interoception. The Multidimensional Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness (MAIA) is a self-report questionnaire developed by Dr. Mehling that has been widely used to assess multiple dimensions of interoceptive awareness. To further improve the MAIA, Mehling developed the Multidimensional Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness, Version 2 (MAIA-2). Our study is to systematically translate the MAIA-2 into Chinese and to investigate the psychometric properties of the Chinese version (MAIA-2C), providing a measurement of interoceptive awareness adapted to a China sample. The MAIA-2C is a reliable and valid instrument for evaluating multiple dimensions of interoceptive awareness in a Chinese population—an instrument that could be used for future research.

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In review

# The Multidimensional Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness, Version 2 (MAIA-2): Translation and Psychometric Properties of the Chinese Version

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26 **Keywords:** Multidimensional Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness, Version 2 (MAIA-2),  
27 **reliability, validity, interoception, interoceptive awareness**

## 28 **Abstract**

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32 Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness, Version 2 (MAIA-2). The goal of this study is to  
33 systematically translate the MAIA-2 into Chinese and to investigate the psychometric properties of  
34 the Chinese version (MAIA-2C).

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36 method. A total number of 627 participants were enrolled and completed the survey. The entire  
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38  $327, 52.2\%$ ) for a cross-validation. Exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was used to identify the factor  
39 structure of the MAIA-2C in the training sample while confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was used  
40 to test the factor structure obtained by EFA. The reliability of the MAIA-2C was indicated by  
41 Cronbach's alpha. The convergent and discriminant validity were assessed by Pearson  
42 intercorrelations between the MAIA-2C and the Five-Facet Mindfulness Questionnaire (FFMQ) and  
43 State-Trait Anxiety Inventory-Trait anxiety (STAI-T).

44 **Results:** The EFA results showed an initial 10-factor model, but some items (1, 2, 3, 4, 15, 16) were  
45 deleted because they did not yield the original subscale construct, eventually resulting in a 7-factor  
46 model. The CFA results represented a good model fit ( $\chi^2/df = 2.170, RMSEA = 0.060, SRMR =$   
47  $0.0810, CFI = 0.890$ ). The Cronbach's alpha was 0.822 for the total scale and ranged from 0.656 to  
48 0.838 for the subscales. The results of convergent and discriminant validity showed that most MAIA-  
49 2C subscales were correlated with the average score and subscales of FFMQ ( $r = -0.342 \sim 0.535, p <$   
50  $0.05$ ), and all of the subscales of the MAIA-2C showed negative correlations with the STAI-T total  
51 score ( $r = -0.352 \sim -0.080, p < 0.05$ ).

52 **Conclusion:** The MAIA-2C is a valid and reliable instrument for evaluating multiple dimensions of  
53 interoceptive awareness in a Chinese population.

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## 62 1 Introduction

63 Interoception is defined as the perception of internal bodily changes (1). Recently, a revised  
64 description of interoception has been proposed with more details, including the processes by which  
65 an organism senses, interprets, integrates, and regulates signals from inside the body. This revision  
66 expands the communication from the brain to other physiological systems through descending  
67 pathways (2).

68 As a multidimensional construct, interoception consists of three psychological dimensions:  
69 interoceptive awareness (sensibility, referring to one's beliefs and consciousness about their  
70 interoceptive ability), accuracy (sensitivity, the performance and reliability with objective tests of  
71 internal detection, such as heartbeats), and the metacognitive dimension (accurate perception on  
72 one's own interoceptive performance) (1,3). Many studies have demonstrated the role for  
73 interoception in cognitive functioning such as decision-making, memory and emotion processing. In  
74 addition, it has been found that the interoceptive function decreased with age, and the decline  
75 accounted for some aspects of cognitive impairment and age-related health issues (4).

76 Interoceptive accuracy is thought to play an important role in interoception (5). Many previous  
77 studies have found that interoceptive awareness might be influenced by many trait-like characteristics  
78 such as trait anxiety and self-esteem (6). Interoceptive awareness has been proposed to mediate the  
79 health benefits of mind-body interventions in daily life. These interventions include Qigong, Taichi,  
80 yoga, mindfulness, and others (7–9). Researchers have long been interested in the psychological  
81 mechanisms of mind-body interventions. And so, it is necessary to assess these mechanisms—  
82 interoceptive awareness has been suggested as one of them (10).

83 To evaluate the effectiveness of mind-body interventions, it is crucial to have validated instruments  
84 to assess interoceptive awareness (7,11). The Body Perception Questionnaire (12) was one of the  
85 most commonly used questionnaires. However, the BPQ is a unidimensional biological measure of  
86 one's interoceptive awareness of anxiety-related sensations (13), which is often used in the biological  
87 studies (14). Different with BPQ, Dr. Mehling (8) developed a self-report questionnaire, the  
88 Multidimensional Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness (MAIA). It can assess the most salient  
89 facets and capture any changes in multiple dimensions of interoceptive awareness. The MAIA  
90 comprises 32 items and 8 distinct subscales. The eight subscales are defined as Noticing, Not-  
91 Distracting, Not-Worrying, Attention Regulation, Emotional Awareness, Self-Regulation, Body  
92 Listening, and Trusting (8). The MAIA has become one of the most widely used self-report measures  
93 of interoceptive awareness. To date, it has been translated into 26 languages, and 12 of these versions  
94 have been validated with good reliability (15).

95 To further improve the MAIA, Mehling (16) developed the Multidimensional Assessment of  
96 Interoceptive Awareness, Version 2 (MAIA-2). Compared to the original version, MAIA-2 retains  
97 the eight subscales but consists of 37 items. First, in the Not-Distracting scale, there are three new  
98 items: (1) *I try to ignore pain* (R); (2) *I push feelings of discomfort away by focusing on something*  
99 *else* (R), and (3) *When I feel unpleasant body sensations, I occupy myself with something else so I*  
100 *don't have to feel them* (R). Second, in the Not-Worrying scale, the two new items are: (1) *I can stay*  
101 *calm and not worry when I have feelings of discomfort or pain* and (2) *When I am in discomfort or*  
102 *pain, I can't get it out of my mind* (R). R indicates reverse scoring. The Cronbach alphas of the two  
103 scales were improved (Not-Distracting: 0.74; Not-Worrying: 0.67).

104 In order to apply the MAIA-2 to the Chinese population, this study was conducted to systematically  
105 translate it into Chinese and to investigate the psychometric properties of the Chinese version of the  
106 MAIA-2 (MAIA-2C).

## 107 **2 Methods**

### 108 **2.1 Participants**

109 In the survey stage, we recruited 853 young adults from Zhejiang University. During the survey, a  
110 catch-trial was set among the items for quality control by asking participants to choose one specified  
111 option. We also examined the filling time and excluded participants whose response time was below  
112 200 s ( $n = 121$ ) or above 1200 s ( $n = 45$ ). The final sample of the present study consisted of 627  
113 participants aged between 18 and 26 years ( $M = 21.62$ ,  $SD = 2.44$ , 38.3% male and 61.7% female).  
114 All the participants were native Chinese. This study was approved by the Ethics Committee.  
115 Participants received a financial reward (3 RMB) for their participation.

### 116 **2.2 Instruments**

117 In accordance with the original MAIA study (8), the following questionnaires (FFMQ and STAI-T)  
118 were used to test the psychometric properties of the MAIA-2C.

#### 119 **2.2.1 Multidimensional Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness, Version 2 (MAIA-2)**

120 To measure multiple dimensions of interoception bodily awareness, the original MAIA consists of 32  
121 items with 8 subscales (8). Based on the original version, MAIA-2 still retains an 8-factor structure  
122 (16). These are (i) Noticing: the awareness of uncomfortable, comfortable, and neutral body  
123 sensations; (ii) Not-Distracting: the tendency not to ignore or distract oneself from sensations of pain  
124 or discomfort; (iii) Not-Worrying: the tendency not to experience emotional distress or worry with  
125 sensations of pain or discomfort; (iv) Attention Regulation: the ability to sustain and control attention  
126 to body sensations; (v) Emotional Awareness: the awareness of the connection between body  
127 sensations and emotional states; (vi) Self-Regulation: the ability to regulate psychological distress by  
128 attention to body sensations; (vii) Body Listening: actively listening to the body for insight, and (viii)  
129 Trusting: the experiences of one's body as safe and trustworthy. However, in contrast to MAIA, the  
130 items of MAIA-2 were increased to 37. In the MAIA-2, the items are tested on a 6-point Likert scale  
131 (0–5), taking the average rating of all the items on each scale as the score, with higher scores  
132 indicating a higher ability of interoceptive bodily awareness. The MAIA-2 subscale Cronbach's  
133 alphas ranged from 0.64 to 0.83 (16).

#### 134 **2.2.2 Five-Facet Mindfulness Questionnaire (FFMQ)**

135 The Chinese version of the FFMQ (17,18) was selected as a measure to assess the convergent and  
136 discriminant validity of the MAIA-2C. The FFMQ is a 39-item self-report instrument with 5  
137 subscales: (1) Observing: the ability to notice internal stimuli among other stimuli, such as body  
138 sensations, emotion, and others; (2) Describing: the ability to note or describe internal experience; (3)  
139 Acting with Awareness: attending to one's current activities; (4) Non-judging of Inner Experience:  
140 evaluating one's body sensations; and (5) Non-reactivity to Inner Experience: accepting thoughts and  
141 feelings without being absorbed in them. Items are answered on a 5-point Likert scale (1–5). Internal-  
142 consistency reliabilities in the FFMQ subscales were between 0.75 and 0.91 (17), and Chinese  
143 reliabilities ranged from 0.45 to 0.84 (18).

### 144 2.2.3 State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI-T)

145 The Chinese version of the STAI was validated by Li and Qian (19), and the STAI-T subscale was  
146 also used to assess the convergent and discriminant validity of the MAIA-2C. The STAI-T subscale  
147 is a 20-item self-report questionnaire with a 4-point Likert rating from 1 (almost never) to 4 (almost  
148 always) (20). Both FFMQ and STAI-T were used for convergent and discriminant validation as in  
149 previous work (8).

## 150 2.3 Procedure

151 The translation and adaptation of the questionnaire was conducted by Beaton's method (21) as  
152 follows:

### 153 2.3.1 Forward-backward translation

154 After obtaining permission from the original author, Dr. Wolf Mehling, to translate the MAIA-2 a  
155 forward-backward translation of the English MAIA-2 into Chinese was conducted to retain  
156 invariance meaning across different cultures (21). The forward-backward translation process includes  
157 the following steps:

- 158 • Three native Chinese bilingual speakers, two did not know the construct and one was familiar with  
159 the construct, completed the forward-translation into Chinese independently.
- 160 • After comparing the three translated versions, we discussed them with one native Chinese bilingual  
161 professor and formed a forward-translated version.
- 162 • A bilingual overseas doctoral student, who was not familiar with the construct and blinded to the  
163 original English version, finished the back-translation into English according to the forward-  
164 translated document.
- 165 • After comparing the back-translation and the original English version, divergences were identified  
166 and discussed with the original author of the MAIA-2. The Chinese version was modified  
167 accordingly, and the translation process was completed. The cognitive interviews and survey studies  
168 were then conducted (see below).

### 169 2.3.2 Cognitive interviews

170 A total of 8 interviewees (2 males, 6 females) aged between 19 and 54 years ( $M = 30.75$ ,  $SD = 12.18$ )  
171 participated in the cognitive interviews. Participants received financial compensation (30 RMB) for  
172 their participation.

173 At this stage, interviewees were asked to complete the translated questionnaire and note any  
174 questions or doubts they had about the items. For example, if they did not understand the item or if  
175 there was ambiguity in the item. After they had completed the questionnaire, we started to conduct  
176 the cognitive interviews by asking them in-depth questions that they wrote down. Then, we randomly  
177 selected some items and asked interviewees to elaborate their meanings. Finally, we sorted all the  
178 questions and divergences and discussed them with the original author of the MAIA-2. Some  
179 modifications were made, and a final translated version was formed.



### 180 2.3.3 Survey

181 The translated MAIA-2 was self-administered using a web platform (www.wjx.cn). Before filling out  
182 the questionnaires, the purpose of the research was explained to the participants, and the consent  
183 information was presented. The participants could only proceed after agreeing to the consent. They  
184 were asked to complete the Likert scales as well as demographic characteristics including age and  
185 gender. Participants received financial compensation (3 RMB) for participation.

## 186 2.4 Data analysis

187 To evaluate the factor structure of the scale, a cross-validation procedure was completed in a total  
188 sample of 627, which was randomly divided into a training sample ( $n = 300$ , 47.8%) and a validation  
189 sample ( $n = 327$ , 52.2%).

190 The training sample was used for an exploratory factor analysis (EFA) to identify the factor construct  
191 of the MAIA-2C. The EFA was performed with a maximum-likelihood estimation and varimax  
192 rotation (extraction criterion: eigenvalue  $> 1$ ).

193 The validation sample was used for a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) to test the factor construct  
194 obtained with the EFA. Parameters were estimated using the maximum-likelihood estimation  
195 method. The fit statistics were evaluated based on the criteria recommended by Kline (22) and  
196 DiStefano (23). Specifically, the model fit was considered good (or acceptable) if normed  $\chi^2$  ( $= \chi^2/df$ )  
197  $\leq 2$  (3), RMSEA  $\leq .06$  (.08), SRMR  $\leq .08$  (.10), and CFI  $\geq .95$  (.90).

198 Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used to evaluate the reliability of the scale and the subscales. If the  
199 Cronbach's alpha of the scale  $> 0.7$ , it was considered acceptable. To examine associations between  
200 items and relationships between subscales, the Pearson correlation matrix was used. The convergent  
201 and discriminant validity of the MAIA-2C were assessed by Pearson intercorrelations between the  
202 MAIA-2C and FFMQ and STAI-T.

203 Statistical analyses were conducted using *IBM® SPSS Statistics 26* and *IBM® SPSS AMOS 23*.

## 204 3 Results

### 205 3.1 Translation of MAIA-2C

206 We used a sample consisted of 627 participants recruited from Zhejiang University. The adaptation  
207 was formed using a forward-backward translation. Cognitive interviews brought us to understand the  
208 essence of most items, rendering the translation more culturally adapted. We identified difficulties in  
209 comprehension for Items 5, 10, 12, 18, 21, 35, and 37 and discussed biases and ambiguities with Dr.  
210 Mehling, the author of the original MAIA. Then some adaptations were made. Some important biases  
211 were below: For Item 12, some interviewees did not understand “what’s wrong” with my body or life  
212 (wrong with my body). For Item 35, it was difficult to understand “feel at home” in Chinese (Being  
213 at home in the body implies a sense of comfort and trust).

### 214 3.2 Univariate descriptive statistics for the items

215 A Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin (KMO) sampling adequacy of 0.821 and a significant Bartlett test of  
216 sphericity ( $\chi^2 = 4454.66$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ) showed an appropriate model for analyzing the data. Assessment  
217 of skewness and kurtosis showed that most item scores ranged from  $-1$  to  $1$ , which could infer an  
218 approximation of each item to a normal distribution (**Supplementary eTable 1**). The kurtosis of

219 items 2 (1.448), 11 (1.065), and 37 (1.127) were out of the range between -1 and 1, but they were  
 220 also close to 1 and below 1.5, which was considered acceptable. Given that each item has six possible  
 221 response choices, we used the ML method to estimate the model parameters. This method showed  
 222 robustness when each item of a scale had an approximately normal distribution (24,25).

### 223 3.3 Results from Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA)

224 The EFA was conducted with maximum-likelihood estimation and varimax rotation (extraction  
 225 criterion: eigenvalue > 1) (**Supplementary eTable 2**). The results showed a 10-factor model. But  
 226 only Item 15 belonged to Factor 10, and so Item 15 was removed. Items 1–4 originally belonging to  
 227 Noticing were distributed into two independent subscales, which had not met a minimal threshold  
 228 number of subscale item. Also, the Cronbach's alpha of the Noticing subscale, including Items 1–4  
 229 (0.582), was below 0.6 in our sample. Given the above results, we removed these items. In addition,  
 230 Item 16 was removed because it did not distribute to the subscale to which it theoretically belonged.  
 231 The Not-Worrying subscale had a relatively low reliability 0.638, but it was close to 0.7, and so the  
 232 scale was retained. Thus, our EFA reduced the MAIA-2C from 37 to 31 items, with a 7-factor model  
 233 (**Supplementary eTable 3**).

234 The commonalities reproduced by the varimax rotation ranged between 0.36 and 0.79, and the seven  
 235 extracted factors explained 61.2% of the total variance.

### 236 3.4 Results from Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)

237 After conducting the CFA, the goodness of the fit statistics of the 7-factor model were normed  $\chi^2$   
 238 ( $\chi^2/\text{df}$ ) = 2.375  $\leq$  3, a RMSEA = 0.065  $\leq$  0.08, a SRMR = 0.0829  $\leq$  0.1, a CFI = 0.870  $\leq$  0.9. Given  
 239 the similarities of items in the same subscale, we made a correlation between the residuals of Item 7  
 240 (When I feel pain or discomfort, I try to power through it.) and Item 8 (I try to ignore pain.), because  
 241 they both contribute to the subscale Not-Distracting and focus on how to deal with pain. And we also  
 242 made a correlation between the residuals of Item 11 (When I feel physical pain, I become upset.) and  
 243 Item 12 (I start to worry that something is wrong if I feel any discomfort.), because they both  
 244 contribute to the subscale Not-Worrying and focus on the state of "upset and be worried." After  
 245 making two correlations above, the goodness of the fit statistics of the model (**Figure 1**) were  
 246 normed  $\chi^2$  ( $\chi^2/\text{df}$ ) = 2.170  $\leq$  3, a RMSEA = 0.060  $\leq$  0.08, a SRMR = 0.0810  $\leq$  0.1, a CFI = 0.890  $\leq$   
 247 0.9.

### 248 3.5 Reliability of MAIA-2C

249 The Cronbach's alpha of the MAIA-2C was 0.822, and subscales ranged from 0.656 to 0.838. The  
 250 subscale-subscale correlation analysis indicates that the Not-Distracting scale has an inverse  
 251 correlation with Attention Regulation ( $r = -0.252$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), Emotional Awareness ( $r = -0.102$ ,  $p <$   
 252  $0.05$ ), Self-Regulation ( $r = -0.233$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), Body Listening ( $r = -0.143$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), and Trusting ( $r =$   
 253  $-0.105$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), and does not show a significant correlation with Not-Worrying. Also, the Not-  
 254 Worrying scale has an inverse correlation with Emotional Awareness ( $r = -0.237$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) and Body  
 255 Listening ( $r = -0.103$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), and does not show any significant correlations with the other  
 256 subscales. Correlations between each subscale were presented in **Table 1**.

### 257 3.6 Validity of MAIA-2C

258 Convergent and discriminant validity was analyzed by calculating the Pearson correlations of the  
 259 adapted MAIA-2C scales (7 factors) and the scores of FFMQ and STAI-T (**Table 2**). As shown in

260 Table 5, most of the MAIA-2C scales are significantly and positively correlated with the scores of  
261 the FFMQ subscales and the total FFMQ score, but the Not-Worrying subscale does not show  
262 significant correlations with subscale Describing in FFMQ and the total score. Further, the Acting  
263 With Awareness scale belonging to FFMQ does not show any significant correlations with the  
264 Attention Regulation, Self-Regulation, and Trusting subscales in the MAIA-2C. There were also  
265 some significant negative correlations between some dimensions of both scales, such as the Non-  
266 judging of Inner Experience subscale in FFMQ with the Attention Regulation, Emotion Awareness,  
267 Self-Regulation, Body Listening, and Trusting subscales in the MAIA-2C. Regarding the STAI-T, all  
268 of the subscales of the MAIA-2C showed significant correlations with the STAI-T total score.

#### 269 4 Discussion

270 The MAIA-2 was systematically translated into Chinese and validated in young adults with good  
271 psychometric properties.

272 We used the EFA to obtain a 7-factor model. Although the results showed a 10-factor model, Items  
273 15 and 16 did not belong to the factors that they theoretically belong to, and the original MAIA scale  
274 “Noticing” was deleted from the MAIA-2C because the Cronbach’s alpha coefficient of this scale  
275 (0.582) was below 0.6. A new rotated factorial matrix was established for the 31-item scale.

276 The low contribution of Item 15 (When I am in discomfort or pain, I can’t get it out of my mind.) to  
277 the subscale Not-Worrying (the result showed it belonged to a new independent factor) might be due  
278 to the order in which Items 13 and 14 are positively scored, whereas Item 15 is reversely scored. The  
279 content of Item 15 focuses on the ability “get the discomfort and pain out of mind” whereas other  
280 items focus on the state “upset and being worried.” The low contribution of Item 16 (I can pay  
281 attention to my breath without being distracted by things happening around me.) to the subscale  
282 Attention Regulation (the result showed it belonged to Self-Regulation) might be due to the focus on  
283 “breath” while other items emphasize “body.” Items 30 and 31 from the subscale Self-Regulation  
284 also concentrate on “breath.” Therefore, after conducting EFA, Item 16 was classified as Self-  
285 Regulation with Items 30 and 31.

286 As for Cronbach’s alpha, six of the seven subscales were above 0.7, which showed a good internal  
287 consistency. The reliability of the subscales Not-Worrying (0.656) was questionable, but it was very  
288 close to the original version of the MAIA-2 (0.67) (16). One possible interpretation is that it is the  
289 only dimension that has both positive and negative scorings, and reliability is influenced by the  
290 number of items in the subscale, which usually increases with the number(25). Therefore, removing  
291 Item 15 might weaken its reliability.

292 The CFA was conducted to show the goodness of fit statistics of seven-subscale model. [One](#)  
293 [limitation of the present study was that CFI \(0.890\) of the model fit was less than 0.900, indicating a](#)  
294 [slightly poor model fit. It might be due to the fact that some items were correlated at a relatively high](#)  
295 [level. For example, when allowing the correlation between two items regarding listening \(i.e. Item 33](#)  
296 [and 34 in the model\), the CFI would exceed 0.9.](#)

297 For the convergent construct validity, most of the seven subscales were significantly and positively  
298 correlated with the scores of the FFMQ subscales and the total FFMQ score. FFMQ is widely used to  
299 assess the nature of mindfulness, and interoceptive awareness is thought to be one of the  
300 psychological mechanisms of mind-body interventions. We obtained a similar survey result to that of  
301 the original English MAIA study (8) and a study of the Japanese version (26). This showed that the  
302 MAIA-2C is a useful measurement of mindful bodily awareness. However, in contrast to the original

303 English MAIA, our results showed that the Not-Worrying subscale does not show significant  
304 correlations with the subscale Describing in FFMQ, and the total score and the Acting With  
305 Awareness scale belonging to FFMQ do not show any significant correlations with Attention  
306 Regulation, Self-Regulation, and Trusting subscales in the MAIA-2C. There were also some  
307 significant negative correlations between some dimensions of both scales, such as the Non-judging of  
308 Inner Experience subscale in FFMQ with Attention Regulation, Emotion Awareness, Self-  
309 Regulation, Body Listening, and Trusting subscales in the MAIA-2C. However, in the original  
310 MAIA study, all of the MAIA subscales were significantly positively correlated with the FFMQ  
311 subscales (8). One possible reason for this is the difference in the sample population. The original  
312 sample was from participants experienced with mind-body practices, while our sample was from  
313 young adults who have fewer mind-intervention experiences. Our result was equivalent to the  
314 Japanese study (26), whose individuals in the sample also had fewer experiences with mind-body  
315 practices.

316 Regarding the STAI-T, all of the subscales of the MAIA-2C were significantly negatively correlated  
317 with the STAI-T total score ( $-0.080$  to  $-0.352$ ). This suggests that trait anxiety is also negatively  
318 associated with bodily awareness measures of the MAIA-2C. These results were also consistent with  
319 the original MAIA study (8) and the Japanese-version study (26), demonstrating all negative  
320 correlations between the MAIA and STAI-T scores.

321 The first version of MAIA had been translated into Chinese by Lin et. (7), using the same translation  
322 procedure as we did. Except some inherent differences between the two original versions, there are  
323 several potential factors may differentiate Lin's version and ours. First, the MAIA-C was expressed  
324 in traditional Chinese while ours in simplified Chinese. There are some subtle differences in the favor  
325 of wording when describing the same thing. Therefore, our version is more appropriate when  
326 participants are from mainland of China. Second, as language is the media of custom and culture,  
327 there would be some differences between the MAIA and MAIA-2C as the validations were based  
328 upon a China Taiwan population and a China mainland population, respectively.

329 In summary, the translated and verified MAIA-2C has reasonable reliabilities and validities. For  
330 further study, different Chinese samples should be investigated. As noted above, some participants  
331 with more experiences in mind-body practices could be used to test the reliability and validity of  
332 MAIA-2C.

## 333 5 Conclusion

334 Our study provides a measurement of interoceptive awareness adapted to a China sample. The  
335 MAIA-2C is a reliable and valid instrument for evaluating multiple dimensions of interoceptive  
336 awareness in a Chinese population—an instrument that could be used for future research.

## 337 6 Conflict of Interest

338 The authors declare no competing interests.

## 339 7 Data availability statement

340 The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without  
341 undue reservation.

## 342 8 Ethics statement

343 The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by the Ethics Committee of  
344 Children's Hospital of Zhejiang University.

## 345 **9 Author contributions**

346 **Binyu Teng:** Conceptualization, Investigation, Data curation, Formal analysis, Writing - original  
347 draft. **Dan Wang:** Data curation, Writing – review & editing. **Conghui Su:** Data curation. Hui Zhou:  
348 Data curation. **Tengfei Wang:** Data curation, Formal analysis. **Wolf E. Mehling:** Original author,  
349 Writing – review. **Yuzheng Hu:** Conceptualization, Data curation, Writing - review & editing,  
350 Funding acquisition.

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448

449 **Table 1.**450 **Pearson product-moment correlations among the seven MAIA scales and Cronbach's alpha.**

	ND	NW	AR	EA	SR	BL	T
Not-Distracting	0.803						
Not-Worrying	-0.055	0.656					
Attention Regulation	-.252**	-0.032	0.822				
Emotional	-.102*	-.237**	.524**	0.817			
Self-Regulation	-.233**	-0.017	.546**	.463**	0.741		
Body Listening	-.143**	-.103**	.563**	.581**	.571**	0.765	
Trusting	-.105**	-0.035	.430**	.419**	.446**	.532**	0.838

451 *Note.* Cronbach's alpha on the diagonal. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ .

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467 **Table 2.**468 **Pearson's correlations of the FFMQ, STAI-T, and MAIA-2C.**

	ND	NW	AR	EA	SR	BL	T
<b>FFMQ</b>							
OBS	-.107**	-.163**	.443**	.513**	.399**	.535**	.353**
DSC	.083*	0.016	.311**	.215**	.189**	.260**	.299**
AWA	.236**	.093*	-0.044	-.123**	-0.032	-.136**	0.043
NOJ	.252**	.170**	-.282**	-.293**	-.239**	-.342**	-.143**
NOR	-.220**	.087*	.468**	.328**	.463**	.397**	.269**
Total	.127**	0.073	.332**	.238**	.283**	.262**	.321**
<b>STAI-T</b>							
Total	-.106**	-.141**	-.193**	-.080*	-.257**	-.107**	-.352**

469 *Note.* MAIA-2C: N, Noticing; ND, Not-Distracting; NW, Not-Worrying; A, Attention Regulation; E,  
 470 Emotional Awareness; S, Self-Regulation; B, Body Listening; T, Trusting. FFMQ: OBS, Observing;  
 471 DSC, Describing; AWA, Acting with Awareness; NOJ, Non-judging of Inner Experience; NOR,  
 472 Non-reactivity to Inner Experience. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ .

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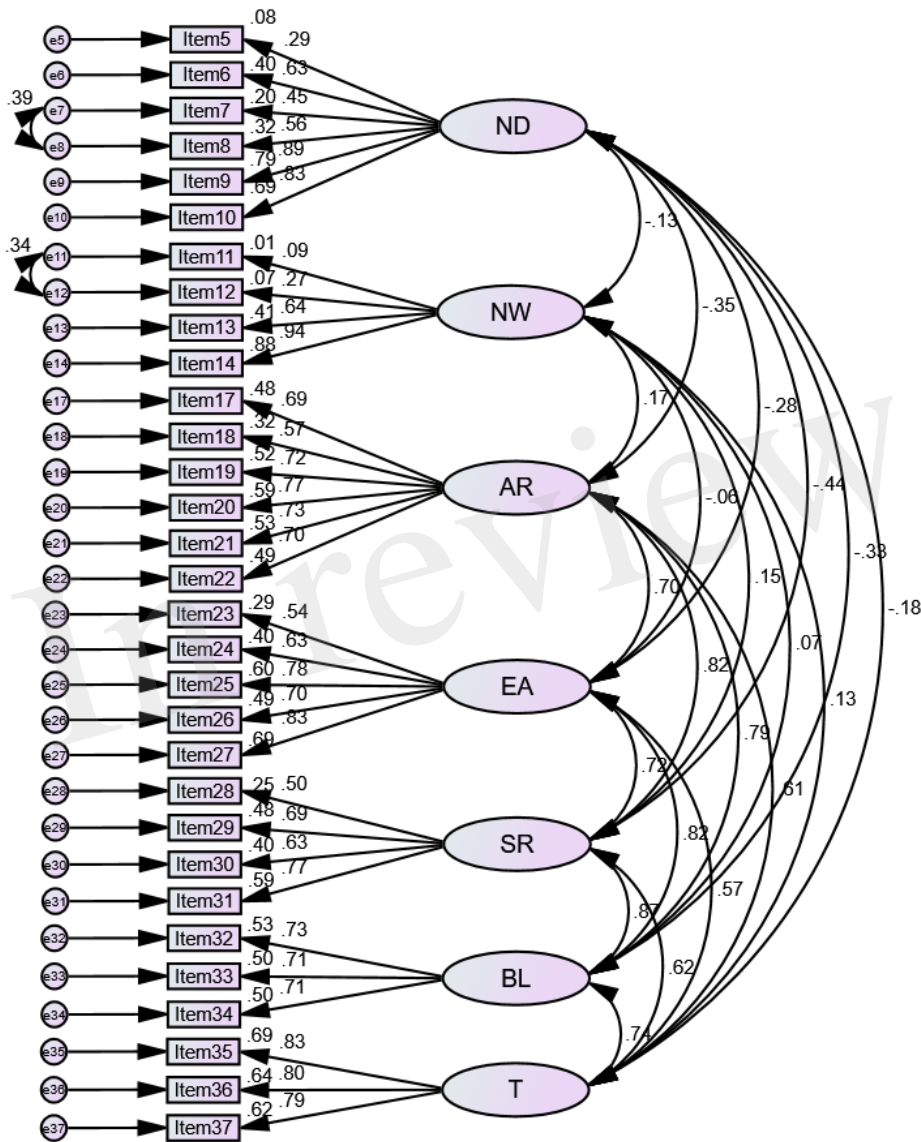
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486 **Figure 1. Structural model of adaptation to the MAIA-2C.**



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488 *Note.* N, Noticing; ND, Not-Distracting; NW, Not-Worrying; A, Attention Regulation; E, Emotional  
 489 Awareness; S, Self-Regulation; B, Body Listening; T, Trusting.

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Figure 1.JPEG

