

PhD studentship (Full-time)

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| Institution | Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China |
| School | School of Science |
| Supervisors | Principal supervisor: Dr. Lu Zhang (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Professor Steve Paterson (UoL) Co-supervisor: Professor/Dr Sekar Raju (XJTLU) |
| Application Deadline | Open until the position is filled |
| Funding Availability | Funded PhD project (world-wide students) |
| Project Title | Investigating the diversity of myxobacteria and their predation on cyanobacteria in Lake Taihu |
| Contact | Please email Lu.Zhang03@xjtlu.edu.cn The principal supervisor's profile is linked here: https://scholar.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/persons/LuZhang03 |

Requirements:

A Master's degree with Merit and a Bachelor's degree with first-class or upper second-class honors are required for PhD admissions.

Evidence of good spoken and written English is essential. The candidate should have an IELTS (or equivalent) score of 6.5 or above, if the first language is not English. This position is open to all qualified candidates irrespective of nationality.

Degree:

The student will be awarded a PhD degree from the University of Liverpool (UK) upon successful completion of the program.

Funding:

The PhD studentship is available for three years subject to satisfactory progress by the student. The award covers tuition fees for three years (currently equivalent to RMB 99,000 per annum). It also provides up to RMB 16,500 to allow participation at international conferences during the period of the award. The scholarship holders are expected to conduct the majority of their research at XJTLU in Suzhou, China. However, they may apply for a short-term research visit to the University of Liverpool if the project requires it.

Project Description:

Myxobacteria are known for their social behavior and cooperative predation on other microorganisms, with recognized potential as "living antibiotics" and biocontrol agents. However, their diversity and activity in freshwater ecosystems remain largely unexplored. This project aims to investigate the diversity, distribution, and predation activity of myxobacteria in lake sediments, focusing on Lake Taihu. Methods include monthly sampling, predation experiments with isotopically labelled prey, and comparative analysis of genomes from this project and public databases. Additionally, we will assess the predation of isolated myxobacterial strains on microalgae to explore their potential in algae control. The results will provide novel insights into microbial interactions in the environment and support the efficacy of myxobacteria as biocontrol agents in lakes.

Applicants with expertise in Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Environmental Science or Bioinformatics will be preferred.

For more information about doctoral scholarship and PhD programme at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU), please visit

<https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/admissions/doctoral/entry-requirement-phd>

How to Apply:

Interested applicants are advised to email Lu.Zhang03@xjtlu.edu.cn the following documents for initial review and assessment.

- CV
- Contact information of two references
- Personal statement outlining your interest in the position
- Certificates of English language qualifications (IELTS or equivalent)
- Full academic transcripts in both Chinese and English (for international students, only the English version is required)
- Verified certificates of education qualifications in both Chinese and English (for international students, only the English version is required)
- PDF copy of Master Degree dissertation (or an equivalent writing sample) and examiners reports available