

## PhD studentship (Full-time)



Institution	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China
Department	Department of Biology
Supervisors	Principle supervisor: David Ruiz Carrillo (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University) Co-supervisor: Patrick Eyers (University of Liverpool, UK);
Application Deadline	Open until the position is filled
Funding Availability	Funded PhD project (world-wide students)
Project Title	<i>Biochemical and structural</i> characterization of microbial enzymes
Contact	Please email <a href="mailto:david.ruiz@xjtlu.edu.cn">david.ruiz@xjtlu.edu.cn</a> (principal supervisor's email address) and copy <a href="mailto:doctoralstudies@xjtlu.edu.cn">doctoralstudies@xjtlu.edu.cn</a> with a subject line of the PhD project title

### **Requirements:**

The candidate should have a first class or upper second class honours degree, or a master's degree (or equivalent qualification), in biological sciences or close related discipline. Evidence of good spoken and written English is essential. The candidate should have an IELTS score of 6.5 or above, or an equivalent qualification, if the first language is not English. This position is open to all qualified candidates irrespective of nationality.

Candidates with strong working ethics, good time-management skills and with the ability to adapt to the changing needs of research are preferred traits. It is expected that the candidate will have experience with the common molecular biology techniques, as well as, demonstrable previous experience in protein expression and in protein purification. Ideally the candidate will have demonstrable experience with enzyme kinetics and macromolecular x-ray crystallography, which will be considered an asset. Capacity and willingness to effectively manage regular synchrotron applications and other lab administration is expected.

### **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 80,000 per annum) and provides a monthly stipend of 3500 RMB as a contribution to living expenses. It also provides up to RMB 16,500 to allow participation at international conferences during the period of the award. It is a

condition of the award that holders of XJTLU PhD scholarships carry out 300-500 hours of teaching assistance work per year. The scholarship holder is expected to carry out the major part of his or her research at XJTLU in Suzhou, China. However, he or she is eligible for a research study visit to the University of Liverpool of up to three months, if this is required by the project.

### **Project Description:**

The aim of the project is to carry out an enzymatic and structural characterization of enzymes of pathogenic organisms aiming at the identification of small molecules with inhibitory capacity that could be possibly translated into therapeutic molecules.

The project will specifically focus on the characterization of protein kinases of the human pathogens plasmodium falciparum and mycobacterium tuberculosis. We want to use x-ray crystallography supported with enzyme kinetic profiling as main approaches to characterize the target proteins. We aim at identifying non-conserved residues displaying catalytic relevance, as well as small molecules with potential therapeutic development.

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

<http://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/admissions/phd.html>

<http://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/admissions/phd/feescholarships.html>

### **How to Apply:**

Interested applicants are advised to email Dr David Ruiz, [david.ruiz@xjtlu.edu.cn](mailto:david.ruiz@xjtlu.edu.cn) (principle supervisor's email address) the following documents and copy [doctoralstudies@xjtlu.edu.cn](mailto:doctoralstudies@xjtlu.edu.cn) (please put the project title in the subject line).

- CV
- Two reference letters with contact details (telephone and email)
- Personal statement outlining why you think you are a good candidate for the position
- Proof of English language proficiency (an IELTS score of above 6.5 or equivalent is required)
- Verified school 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)

**Informal enquiries** may be addressed to Dr. David Ruiz Carrillo ([david.ruiz@xjtlu.edu.cn](mailto:david.ruiz@xjtlu.edu.cn)), whose personal profile is linked below, <http://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/departments/academic-departments/biological-sciences/staff/david-ruiz-carrillo>