

PhD studentship (Full-time)



Institution	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China
Department	Department of English (Literature strand)
Supervisors	Principal supervisor: Tom Duggett (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University) Co-supervisor: Paul Baines (University of Liverpool, UK)
Application Deadline	Open until the position is filled
Funding Availability	Funded PhD project (world-wide students)
Project Title	A Scholarly Edition of Ann Radcliffe, <i>The Romance of the Forest</i> (1791)
Contact	Please email thomas.duggett@xjtlu.edu.cn (Principal supervisor), and copy doctoralstudies@xjtlu.edu.cn , including the PhD project title in the subject line

Requirements:

The candidate should have a first class or upper second class honours degree, and a master's degree (or equivalent qualification), in English Literature. It is desirable (but not essential) for candidates to have existing knowledge of the literature and culture of the Romantic period in general, and of Gothic fiction and Radcliffe's life and works in particular. Knowledge and interest in the theory and practice of scholarly editing are also desirable. Candidates without this (or an equivalent) background should explain clearly in their personal statement how they will be able to adapt to participate in this project. Evidence of good spoken and written English is essential. If the candidate's first language is not English, she or he must be able to demonstrate that they have qualified at an English-medium University, and/or be able to demonstrate English language proficiency to the equivalent IELTS score of 7.5 or above. 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 80,000 per annum) and provides a monthly stipend of 3,500 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, paid in addition (and at a comparable overall value) to the stipend. 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.

Project Description:

The PhD studentship is part of a project to produce a scholarly edition of Ann Radcliffe's breakthrough 'Gothic Romance', *The Romance of the Forest* (1791). Radcliffe was known in the Romantic period as the 'Great Enchantress', and her Romances were formative influences on significant writers from Walter Scott to Samuel Taylor Coleridge; Thomas De Quincey to Jane Austen. *The Romance of the Forest* was the work that established Radcliffe's reputation, and is also the work that best showcases the word-painting of Romantic scenes and descriptive techniques for evoking 'Gothic' states of mind for which she became – and remains – famous. The edition will revolutionize availability and understanding of this important text.

The scope of the PhD studentship is to conduct original research on the life and works of Ann Radcliffe, and to prepare a critical edition with explanatory and bibliographical commentary of selected sections of *The Romance of the Forest*. The student will undertake transcription and collation of textual witnesses; contribute to the development of a text-critical apparatus for the edition as a whole; source relevant contextual and illustrative materials for the edition; and help coordinate the publication process.

There is also significant scope for original research beyond the work on the edition. All the work on the edition will be channeled into a thesis which re-reads Radcliffe and *The Romance of the Forest* in the light of that work. The PhD student will be free to choose whether to focus on the novel itself or to look at Radcliffe and Gothic fiction more broadly, but the aim will be to produce a thesis which will become a ground-breaking book suitable for submission to a publisher within a year of completion, and which will reflect on and complement the edition.

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

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

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

How to Apply:

Interested applicants are advised to email thomas.duggett@xjtlu.edu.cn (Principal supervisor) with the following documents (also copying to doctoralstudies@xjtlu.edu.cn):

- CV
- Two reference letters with company/university letterhead (alternatively, you may ask your referees to forward these letters independently, using your name and the project title in the subject line)
- Personal statement outlining your interest in and qualifications for the position
- Proof of English language proficiency (degree certificates from English-medium institutions, and/or documentation showing an IELTS score of above 7.5 or equivalent)
- 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)

Please include the project title in the subject line of your email.

Informal enquiries may be addressed to Dr. Tom Duggett (thomas.duggett@xjtlu.edu.cn)

personal profile:

<http://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/departments/academic-departments/english/staff/thomas-duggett>

website:

<http://gothicromanticism.weebly.com>