

## PhD studentship (Full-time)



Institution	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China
Department	Department of Urban Planning and Design
Supervisors	Principle supervisor: Dr. Paola Pellegrini (XJTLU, UPD Department) Co-supervisor: Dr. Gareth Abrahams (UoL, School of Environmental Science)
Application Deadline	Open until the position is filled
Funding Availability	Funded PhD project (world-wide students)
Project Title	<b>Densify high-density China. Scenarios by design</b> 密化高密度中国：通过设计设想
Contact	Please email <a href="mailto:paola.pellegrini@xjtlu.edu.cn">paola.pellegrini@xjtlu.edu.cn</a> (XJTLU principal supervisor's email address) 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 Urban Design or Architecture or Urban Planning and Design.

Evidence of good spoken and written English is essential. The candidate should have an IELTS 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 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:**

Density is a broad, complex and very relevant topic for China. In fact, density is an essential element in designing urbanization and its impact and potential variations in cities is a challenge, which rapidly developing countries such as China must face, if they want to limit the loss of arable land and the same time provide a healthy comfortable efficient urban environment for the inhabitants, which are becoming middle-class fast. China can take the lead and build cities “right” at the design stage.

The Chinese Central Government is promoting the New-Type Urbanization for a New Era beyond mere growth and is also planning to raise the urbanization rate, China's greatest driver of economic, political, social advances. In the New Era improved liveability and increased sustainability are essential goals both for urbanizing areas and mature urbanizations.

The research project explores excursions on high-density, which require both an in-depth research and a research-by-design approach; the program has to be developed as:

- theoretical contribution – the thesis must produce an extended explanation of the international debate about densification, the high-density conditions and proposals in contemporary cities, framing the general concept for China;
- design proposals of settlement solutions in terms of scenarios, combining 3 key points: health, comfort, sustainability in different Chinese contexts, answering the main question: what are the forms and limits to density and intensify high-density contexts?

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

<http://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/study-with-us/admissions/entry-requirements>

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

### **How to Apply:**

Interested applicants are advised to email [paola.pellegrini@xjtlu.edu.cn](mailto:paola.pellegrini@xjtlu.edu.cn) (XJTLU principal supervisor's email address) the following documents for initial review and assessment (please put the project title in the subject line).

- CV, with portfolio
- Two reference letters with company/university letterhead
- Personal statement outlining your interest in the position
- Proof of English language proficiency (an IELTS score of 6.5 or above)
- 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. Paola Pellegrini (paola.pellegrini@xjtlu.edu.cn):

Paola has a long experience in research-by-design and worked as a professional for some exemplary projects combining strategy, urban design, and narrative planning in an innovative way, such as the Strategic Antwerp Structural Plan (Salewski, 2017; Secchi, Viganò, 2009) and the Vision for a sustainable metropolitan Paris (Blanc, 2010). Paola's PhD thesis in Urban Planning and Design focused on scenarios construction as a tool for re-designing the sprawling city.

Paola Pellegrini personal profile is linked below

<http://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/departments/academic-departments/urban-planning-and-design/staff/paola-pellegrini>