

## PhD studentship (Full-time)



Institution	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China
Department	Department of Biological Sciences
Supervisors	Principal supervisor: <b>Dr MENG LEE</b> (XJTLU, Department) Co-supervisor: <b>Dr DAVID CHIU</b> (XJTLU, Department) Co-supervisor: <b>Dr SIMON TEW</b> (UoL, Department)
Application Deadline	Open until the position is filled
Funding Availability	Funded PhD project (world-wide students)
Project Title	<b>Therapeutics Potential of Designer Metalloproteinase Inhibitors TIMPs in Rheumatoid Arthritis and Osteonecrosis Treatment</b>
Contact	Please email <a href="mailto:meng.lee@xjtlu.edu.cn">meng.lee@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/biomedical sciences or a related discipline**.

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 5,000 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:**

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and osteonecrosis of the femoral head (ONFH) are painful, paralysing diseases that affect millions of people worldwide with severe socioeconomic consequences. As progressive debilitating diseases, RA and ONFH have multifactorial etiologies that includes genetic predisposition, aging, metabolic factors and mechanical trauma. During RA, the joint becomes constantly inflamed, causing fibroblast-Like synoviocytes to acquire abnormal features and alter gene expression that eventually leads to tissue destruction. TNF- $\alpha$ , a cytokine released by the metalloproteinase TNF- $\alpha$  converting enzyme, is a potent inducer of FLS that triggers the release of erosive proteolytic metalloproteinases such as gelatinases and collagenases that contribute to cartilage erosion and joint destruction.

The aim of this studentship is to evaluate the therapeutic potential of a panel of designer metalloproteinase inhibitors "TIMPs" against RA and ONFH using a range of biochemical/cell/tissue culture techniques as well as animal models for IP development and commercialisation purposes.

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 meng.lee@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
- 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)
- PDF copy of Master Degree dissertation (or an equivalent writing sample) and examiners reports available

**Informal enquiries** may be addressed to Dr Meng Lee (meng.lee@xjtlu.edu.cn), whose personal profile is linked below,

<http://>

<https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/index.php?cultureKey=en&q=staff&department=biological->

sciences&alias=meng-lee