

PhD studentship (Full-time)



Institution	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China
Department	Department of Chemistry
Supervisors	Principal supervisor: Dr Magdalini Matziari (XJTLU, Chemistry Department) Co-supervisor: Dr Eric Jean Amigues (XJTLU, Chemistry Department) Co-supervisor: Professor Paul O' Neil (UoL, Chemistry Department)
Application Deadline	Open until the position is filled
Funding Availability	Funded PhD project (world-wide students)
Project Title	Dual HepC hepacivirin and HIV-1 proteases phosphorus-based inhibitors
Contact	Please email Magdalini.Matziari@xjtlu.edu.cn 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 Chemistry, with a strong background in Organic Chemistry and experience in Organic Synthesis.

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:

Hepatitis C virus is the cause of Hepatitis C, a major infectious disease that induces liver inflammation and cirrhosis. Recently, the first generation of Directly Acting Antivirals has been developed, which inhibit specific virus enzymes, with the main target being NS3/4A protease. The high co-occurrence of HepC/HIV infection prompted us to investigate the possibility of developing dual inhibitors for the HIV-1 and NS3/4A proteases, i.e. targeting both diseases at one stroke. HIV/AIDS is one of the most devastating global diseases, with proteolytic processing of the viral polyprotein responsible for the generation of the mature, infectious species. Based on these facts, and given the remarkable properties of the phosphinic binding group, we have set out to develop enzyme inhibitors based on phosphinic peptides, which would simultaneously target the NS3/4A protease of HepC and the HIV-1 protease. Our preliminary results are highly encouraging.

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/feesscholarships.html>

How to Apply:

Interested applicants are advised to email Magdalini.Matziari@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. Magdalini Matziari (Magdalini.Matziari@xjtlu.edu.cn), whose personal profile is linked below, <https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/departments/academic-departments/chemistry/staff/magdalini-matziari>