

PhD studentship (Full-time)



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| Institution | Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China |
| Department | Department of Health and Environmental Sciences |
| Supervisors | Principal supervisor: Dr Yi Zou (XJTLU, Department of Health and Environmental Sciences) Co-supervisor: Dr Bailiang Li (XJTLU, Department of Health and Environmental Sciences) Co-supervisor: Professor Johannes Knops (XJTLU, Department of Health and Environmental Sciences) Co-supervisor: Dr Jenny Hodgson (UoL, Department of Evolution, Ecology and Behaviour) |
| Application Deadline | 1 April 2019 |
| Funding Availability | Funded PhD project (world-wide students) |
| Project Title | Chinese title: 景观变化对农田节肢动物多样性以及生物防治的影响 English title: The impact of changing landscapes on arthropod diversity and biological pest control in agro-ecosystem |
| Subject Areas | <i>Agricultural Science</i> <i>Ecology & Conservation</i> <i>Environmental Science</i> |
| Contact | Please email yi.zou@xjtlu.edu.cn (XJTLU principal supervisor's email address) with a subject line of the PhD project title |

Requirements:

Academic qualification: The candidate should have a first class or upper second class honours degree, or a master's degree (or equivalent qualification), in Ecology, Entomology, Environmental Science, Agricultural Science or related subjects, candidate has ArcGIS experience is preferable

Language qualification: 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 or research 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:

While the impact of agriculture landscape on arthropod biodiversity has been studied, the full linkage between landscape context, biodiversity, biological pest control and yield is still not clear. The project proposes two methods to address this knowledge gap: meta-analysis and empirical study. Meta-analysis will focus on the impact of land use change on biodiversity and yield, obtaining data from published articles or open sources. The empirical study will be based on Jiangxi province in China, where arthropod at different landscape context were studied several years ago, but government are now pushing forward farmland standardization, resulting in a changing of these landscape from small and diverse to large and intensified system. Landscape, arthropod, crop damage and yield will be investigated. By comparing arthropod communities before and after farmland standardization, the project aims to study the impact of changing landscapes on species composition and biocontrol services.

For more information about doctoral scholarships and PhD programmes at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU), please go to <https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/> and Click **Study with us**.

How to Apply:

Interested applicants are advised to email yi.zou@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)

Informal enquiries may be addressed to Dr Yi Zou (yi.zou@xjtlu.edu.cn), whose personal profile is linked below,

<https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/departments/academic-departments/environmental-science/staff/yi-zou>