

## PhD studentship (Full-time)

Institution	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China
School	School of Science
Supervisors	Principal supervisor: Associate Professor/Dr Linxi Yuan (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Senior Associate Professor/Dr Eric Amigues (XJTLU) Assistant Professor/Dr Lei Han (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Professor/Dr Roy Goodacre (UoL)
Application Deadline	Open until the position is filled
Funding Availability	Funded PhD project (world-wide students)
Project Title	Nutrition quality regulation and assessment on Chinese selenium hyperaccumulating plant during planting and fermentation processing
Contact	Please email <a href="mailto:Linxi.Yuan@xjtlu.edu.cn">Linxi.Yuan@xjtlu.edu.cn</a> (XJTLU principal supervisor's email address) with a subject line of the PhD project title.  The principal supervisor's profile is linked here: <a href="https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/departments/academic-departments/health-and-environmental-sciences/staff/linxi-yuan">https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/departments/academic-departments/health-and-environmental-sciences/staff/linxi-yuan</a>

### **Requirements:**

The candidate should have a first class or upper second class honours degree, or a master's degree (or equivalent qualification), in Plant Nutrition, Environmental Microbiology, Food Fermentation, Food Nutrition, Plant Molecular Biology.

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). It also provides up to RMB 16,500 to allow participation at international conferences during the period of the award. 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 up to six months, if this is required by the project.

**Project Description:**

Selenium (Se) is one of the important trace elements needed for maintaining human health, especially for anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidant and immune effects. Till now, it is worldwide for Se deficiency in soils and populations, which accounted about 40% soils and one in seven people around the world, respectively. In China, 72% of the country's total areas and affects over 70 million people potentially are facing adverse health impacts due to Se deficiency. Thus, it is urgent to develop Se-functional foods to improve daily Se intakes for whom had Se deficiency issues in China. *Cardamine hupingshanensis* as a unique Se hyperaccumulating plant in China, will not only accumulate Se but also other beneficial nutrients like Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, I, Mg, vitamins, and folate. The present project will evaluate the nutrient levels and quality during Se accumulation and then improve the nutrient bioavailability and bioaccessibility via fermentation processing to develop plant-based functional food.

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

<https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/admissions/global/entry-requirements/>

<https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/admissions/global/fees-and-scholarship>

**How to Apply:**

Interested applicants are advised to email [Linxi.Yuan@xjtlu.edu.cn](mailto:Linxi.Yuan@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 formal reference letters
- Personal statement outlining your interest in the position
- Certificates of English language qualifications (IELTS or equivalent)
- Full academic 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