

PhD studentship (Full-time)

Institution	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China
School	School of Science
Supervisors	Principal supervisor: Professor/Dr Bastian Steudel (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Professor/Dr Johannes Knops.(XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Professor/Dr Yi Zou (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Professor/Dr Nova Mieszkowska (UoL)
Application Deadline	Open until the position is filled
Funding Availability	Funded PhD project (world-wide students)
Project Title	The influence of species interaction on the ecological niche of selected microalgae
Contact	Please email bastian.steudel@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 Ecology or related studies. 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 six months, if this is required by the project.

Project Description:

Biodiversity, i.e. the variety of life, provides crucial benefits to humans including an increase and stabilization of ecosystem functioning (EF) like biomass or water and air cleaning processes. We are dependent on stable ecosystems for survival, e.g. in agriculture and for clean living conditions, but ecosystems are faced to a variety of environmental stress. Why biodiversity increases and stabilizes EF is largely unknown. We aim to study one of the many possible mechanisms for increasing EF with biodiversity. For this, we will use laboratory model experiments with microalgae as these grow very fast so replicates of the experiments can be performed easily. The main question is how different species contribute to biomass production in species assemblages compared to monocultures if they differ in their individual environmental requirements. This mechanism is not studied yet but may contribute to the understanding of EF, especially if abiotic stress is applied.

The PhD candidate is expected to perform laboratory experiments with microalgae and some field work for algae collection.

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/doctoral/entry-requirement-phd/>

<https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/admissions/doctoral/postgraduate-research-scholarships>

How to Apply:

Interested applicants are advised to email bastian.steudel@xjtlu.edu.cn 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 Professor/Dr. Bastian Steudel (bastian.steudel@xjtlu.edu.cn), whose personal profile is linked below,

<https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/departments/academic-departments/health-and-environmental-sciences/staff/bastian-steudel>