

PhD studentship (Full-time)

Institution	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China
School	International Business School Suzhou
Supervisors	Principal supervisor: Dr. Jianyu Xu (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Dr. Jianghang Chen (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Dr. Cagatay Iris (UoL)
Application Deadline	Open until the position is filled
Funding Availability	Funded PhD project (world-wide students)
Project Title	Maintenance routing problem in large industrial systems with spatial-temporal features.
Contact	Please email Jianyu.Xu@xjtlu.edu.cn (XJTLU principal supervisor's email address) with a subject line of the PhD project title. The principal supervisor's profile is linked here: https://scholar.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/persons/JianyuXu/

Requirements:

A Master's degree with Merit and a Bachelor's degree with first-class or upper second-class honors are required for PhD admissions. Exceptional candidates holding only a Bachelor's degree may be considered on an individual basis in certain disciplines.

Evidence of good spoken and written English is essential. The candidate should have an IELTS (or equivalent) score of 7.0 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 99,000 per annum). It also provides up to RMB 16,500 to allow participation at international conferences during the period of the award. The scholarship holders are expected to conduct the majority of their research at XJTLU in Suzhou, China. However, they may apply for a short-term research visit to the University of Liverpool if the project requires it.

Project Description:

Large industrial systems such as logistics networks and smart grids rely on timely maintenance across many distributed assets. This PhD project will develop data-driven methods to determine when and where maintenance is needed and how service resources can be routed efficiently as system conditions change. The research will combine sensor, operational and environmental data with machine learning and optimization techniques, including reinforcement learning, contextual learning and graph-based modelling. A key focus will be using spatial-temporal relationships among system components to improve decision-making while keeping large-scale problems computationally manageable. The proposed methods will be evaluated through simulations and real-world benchmark data. This project is ideal for candidates interested in AI, operations research and practical optimization.

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 Jianyu.Xu@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