

PhD studentship (Full-time)

Institution	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China
School	School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Supervisors	Principal supervisor: Dr Qingyang Sun (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Dr Rining Wei (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Dr Anarita Magliacane (UoL)
Application Deadline	Open until the position is filled
Funding Availability	Funded PhD project (world-wide students)
Project Title	Unravelling the relationships between languages, literacies and content learning in an EMI university: Policies, practices and Perceptions
Contact	Please email Qingyang.Sun@xjtlu.edu.cn (XJTLU principal supervisor's email address) 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 Applied Linguistics, TESOL, education, or related fields. If the candidate had a background in STEM subjects (or other seemingly less relevant fields) taught in EMI, they should have taken some Applied Linguistics/Education Studies courses and have a strong interest in researching EMI. Evidence of good spoken and written English is essential. The candidate should have an IELTS score of 7.0 or above, if the first language is not English. This position is open to all qualified candidates irrespective of nationality.

They should be familiar with the context of EMI in China; ideally, they should have had some working experience in EMI contexts or the education sector generally. They should have experiences in quantitative and qualitative research; experience in publishing at high-quality journals is preferable. Evidenced ability to use programming languages (e.g. Python or R) for data collection and analysis is desirable.

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) 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 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:

With the global rise of English Medium Instruction (EMI), this project examines the interplay between EMI policies, practices, and stakeholder perceptions at a Chinese university. The study focuses on language use, academic literacies, and subject learning outcomes, using a longitudinal case study approach. It aims to (1) understand how governmental and institutional policies influence EMI practices; (2) track the development of students' language, literacy and content learning over 18 months; and (3) capture stakeholder perceptions of these policies and practices. Using a combination of document analysis, classroom observations, questionnaires, Q methodology and interviews, the project utilizes Process Tracing and Case Study to provide a comprehensive view of EMI challenges and successes at macro-, meso- and individual levels. By exploring these dimensions, the research seeks to bridge gaps between policy and practice, offering insights into effective EMI implementation.

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 Qingyang.Sun@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 7.0 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. Qingyang Sun (Qingyang.Sun@xjtlu.edu.cn), whose personal profile is linked below, <https://scholar.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/persons/QingyangSun>