

PhD studentship (Full-time)

Institution	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China
School	School of Science
Supervisors	Principal supervisor: Dr Rong Rong..... (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Professor Zhiliang Lu..... (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Professor David Fernig..... (UoL)
Application Deadline	Open until the position is filled
Funding Availability	Funded PhD project (world-wide students)
Project Title	Investigation on the prevalence of monkey B virus in the monkey colonies in China and their relative neurovirulence in the target cells
Contact	Please email Rong.Rong@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://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/zh/study/departments/academic-departments/biological-sciences/department-staff/academic-staff/staff/rong-rong

Requirements:

The candidate should have a first class or upper second class honours degree, or a master's degree (or equivalent qualification), in Virology, Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, or Immunology.

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:

Monkey B Virus (BV) occurs naturally in macaques such as rhesus and cynomolgus monkeys that are widely used in biomedical research. BV infection of its natural macaque host is relatively harmless. However, zoonotic infections of humans are usually involved in the central nervous system with high fatality rate. Little is known about factors underlying the extreme neurovirulence of BV in humans. Studies indicate that BV isolates from different macaque species may have different genotypes and pathogenicity. In this project, we will screen for BV genotypes circulating among the different macaque species in the breeding colonies in China, and investigate the relative neurovirulence of the identified BV variants to elucidate mechanisms underlying the neurovirulence of this intriguing virus. Successful completion of this study will improve our understanding on the pathogenesis of this zoonotic BV infection, which may help in developing effective prevention and control strategies.

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 Rong.Rong@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