PhD studentship (Full-time)

Institution	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China
School	Wisdom Lake Academy of Pharmacy
Supervisors	Principal supervisor: Dr Shining Loo (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Dr Antony Kam (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Dr Meng Huee Lee (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Professor Dean Naisbitt (UoL) Co-supervisor: Dr Xiaoli Meng (UoL)
Application Deadline	Open until the position is filled
Funding Availability	Funded PhD project (world-wide students)
Project Title	Targeting Glypican 3 using Self-Assembly Peptides for Precision Cancer Therapy and Diagnosis
Contact	Please email Shining.Loo@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/en/study/departments/academy-of-pharmacy/academy-staff/academic-staff/staff/shining-loo

Requirements:

The candidate should have a first-class honours degree, or a master's degree (or equivalent qualification), in Molecular Biology/ Chemistry/ Chemical Biology/ Synthetic 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 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 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:

Cancer treatment has advanced with targeted therapies, aiming for selective cancer cell targeting while minimizing harm to healthy tissues. However, two primary challenges persist: the need for heightened specificity in targeting and the heterogeneous expression levels of surface markers on cancer cells.

This research project seeks to address these challenges by leveraging self-assembly peptides designed for specific cell types, enhancing the interaction with drug-, diagnostic-, and Natural Killer cell conjugates.

Focusing primarily on Glypican 3, a tumor-specific antigen highly prevalent in liver cancer cells, the project aims to pioneer innovative strategies for targeted cancer therapy and diagnostics. Through this, the research aspires to significantly enhance patient outcomes, making a substantial contribution to the ongoing battle against cancer.

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 Shining.Loo@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