

### PhD studentship (Full-time)

Institution	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China
School	School of Science
Supervisors	Principal supervisor (40%): Professor/Dr...Johannes Knops... (XJTLU) Co-supervisor (40%): Professor/Dr...Lingyun Xiao...(XJTLU) Co-supervisor (10%): Professor/Dr...Jakob Bro-Jorgensen..(UoL) Co-supervisor (10%): Professor/Dr...Li Li...(XJTLU)
Application Deadline	Open until the position is filled
Funding Availability	Funded PhD project (world-wide students)
Project Title	Foodscape mapping of wild ungulates to promote wildlife-friendly herding on the Tibetan Plateau
Contact	Please email <a href="mailto:Lingyun.Xiao@xjtlu.edu.cn">Lingyun.Xiao@xjtlu.edu.cn</a> and <a href="mailto:Johannes.Knops@xjtlu.edu.cn">Johannes.Knops@xjtlu.edu.cn</a> with a subject line of the PhD project title

#### **Requirements:**

The candidate should have a master's degree (or equivalent qualification) with the background of ecology and evidence of good spoken and written English. The candidate should have an IELTS score of 6.5 or above, if the first language of the master's degree is not English. This position is open to all qualified candidates irrespective of nationality. However, the field work will be conducted on the Tibetan Plateau, the language skills (Mandarin or Tibet language) for local communication will be considered.

#### **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 (total 30 months) 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:**

Lack of understanding of the ecological needs of each wild ungulate species under the influence of existing livestock management practice hinders the adoption of wildlife-friendly rangeland management. We aim to strongly collaborate with local herders in Chiat'ung meadow, Sanjiangyuan Region to develop wild ungulate-friendly rangeland management knowledge through foodscape mapping of wild ungulate species (Tibetan gazelles and kiang) to understand their coexistence and potential conflict with livestock under the current pastoral land use, as well as their unique ecological functions in seed dispersal. GPS collar data, dietary information of plant species and nutrition will be collected from both wild ungulates and domestic yaks to study their spatial and dietary interaction. Mapping of fences and grassland types will provide key environmental information to understand distribution of their key resources and potential barriers to resources. The results will help improve the consensus among key conservation stakeholders on the existing gaps in policy and practice of wild ungulate conservation on the Tibetan Plateau and promote sustainable pasture management.

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.....@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 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 Dr. Lingyun Xiao  
([Lingyun.Xiao@xjtlu.edu.cn](mailto:Lingyun.Xiao@xjtlu.edu.cn)) and Professor Johannes Knops

(Johannes.Knops@xjtlu.edu.cn), whose personal profile is linked below,  
<https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/departments/academic-departments/health-and-environmental-sciences/staff/lingyun-xiao>  
<https://connect.xjtlu.edu.cn/user/lingyun-xiao>

<https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/study/departments/school-of-science/health-and-environmental-sciences/department-staff/staff/staff/johannes-knops>