

## PhD studentship (Full-time)

Institution	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China
School	School of Science
Supervisors	Principal supervisor: Dr. Weiwei Dai (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Professor Zhiliang Lv (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Professor Warwick Dunn (UoL)
Application Deadline	Open until the position is filled
Funding Availability	Funded PhD project (world-wide students)
Project Title	The Mechanism of Ammonia Accumulation-Induced Suppression on Urea Cycle Enzymes via Activating HIF Proteins
Contact	Please email <a href="mailto:Weiwei.Dai@xjtlu.edu.cn">Weiwei.Dai@xjtlu.edu.cn</a> with a subject line of the PhD project title.  The principal supervisor's profile is linked here: <a href="https://scholar.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/persons/WeiweiDai">https://scholar.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/persons/WeiweiDai</a> <a href="https://connect.xjtlu.edu.cn/group/dai-lab-bio-department">https://connect.xjtlu.edu.cn/group/dai-lab-bio-department</a>

### **Requirements:**

The candidate should have a first-class honours degree, or a master's degree (or equivalent qualification), in Biology/Biochemistry/Nutrition & Metabolism.

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:**

This research proposal aims to investigate the mechanism by which ammonia accumulation suppresses urea cycle enzymes through the activation of hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF) proteins. The study will explore the impact of ammonia on HIF protein expression and its downstream effects on urea cycle enzyme activity. Understanding this mechanism is crucial for elucidating the pathophysiology of hyperammonemia and may provide insights for potential therapeutic interventions.

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 [Weiwei.Dai@xjtlu.edu.cn](mailto:Weiwei.Dai@xjtlu.edu.cn) 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