

### PhD studentship (Full-time)

Institution	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China
School	Academy of Pharmacy
Supervisors	<p><i>Please list all the names in the supervisory team. It should be consistent with the information on your approved PGRS proposal.</i></p> <p>Principal supervisor: Dr. Xi Zhang (XJTLU)  Co-supervisor: Prof. Lei Fu (XJTLU), Dr. Pengfei Song (XJTLU)  Co-supervisor: Dr. Jillian Madine (UoL)</p>
Application Deadline	Open until the position is filled
Funding Availability	Funded PhD project (world-wide students)
Project Title	Developing Small Molecule Therapeutics Targeting Alpha-Synuclein Aggregation in Parkinson's Disease Model
Contact	<p>Please email <a href="mailto:Xi.Zhang@xjtlu.edu.cn">Xi.Zhang@xjtlu.edu.cn</a> (XJTLU principal supervisor's email address) with a subject line of the PhD project title.</p> <p>The principal supervisor's profile is linked here:  <a href="https://scholar.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/persons/XiZhang">https://scholar.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/persons/XiZhang</a></p>

#### **Requirements:**

A Master's degree with Merit and a Bachelor's degree with first-class or upper second-class honors are required for PhD admissions. Exceptional candidates holding only a Bachelor's degree may be considered on an individual basis in certain disciplines.

Evidence of good spoken and written English is essential. The candidate should have an IELTS (or equivalent) 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 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:**

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a major neurodegenerative disorder which lacks disease-modifying therapies. Targeting alpha-synuclein ( $\alpha$ -syn) aggregation, a key pathological feature of PD, offers a promising therapeutic strategy. This project aims to develop dual-action small molecule drugs capable of inhibiting  $\alpha$ -syn aggregation and disaggregating preformed fibrils. In vitro studies will be applied to investigate drug effects and to uncover mechanisms. Therapeutic effects will be assessed using various PD models. The completion of this study will uncover the value of  $\alpha$ -syn inhibitors/disaggregators for PD treatment and shed light on therapeutic studies in neurodegenerative diseases involving proteinopathy.

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 Xi.Zhang@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