

XJTLU-XJTU-UoL Joint Doctoral Supervision Project (Full-time)

Reference No.	SFXJTU2516
XJTLU School	XJTLU Wisdom Lake Academy of Pharmacy
PhD Programme	Biological Sciences
Supervisors	XJTLU supervisor: Dr Xi Zhang XJTU supervisor: Dr Changhe Wang UoL supervisor: Professor Michael Clague XJTLU Co-supervisor: Dr Jianrui Song
Project Title	Synaptotagmin-11 mediates pathogenesis of Parkinson's disease
Application Deadline	Open until the position is filled

Requirements:

A UK first-class or upper second-class honours Bachelor's degree and a UK Master's degree with Merit (or their equivalent) are required for PhD admissions. Exceptional candidates holding only a Bachelor's degree may be considered on an individual basis.

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.

For more information about entry requirements and admission procedures of PhD programme at XJTLU, please visit:

[Entry Requirement - Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University](#)

[How to Apply - Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University](#)

Other Requirements (if any):

Preferred qualifications (desired, not required):

1. Background in neuroscience and molecular cell biology (a strong wet-lab foundation is essential)
2. Practical experience in animal research
3. Experience in CADD/AIDD is a plus

Please note: This project does not provide funding for tuition. However, TA positions are available at the university, and the successful candidate is strongly encouraged to apply.

Programme Structure and Fees:

Doctoral students in the joint programme are registered with both XJTLU and the UoL. Upon successful completion of the programme, the students will be awarded a PhD degree from University of Liverpool. During their doctoral studies at XJTLU, students are expected to

conduct research at XJTU as visiting students. Additionally, students have the opportunity to apply for a three to six-month research visit to UoL.

The joint doctoral programme is offered on a full-time basis, with a typical duration of three to four years. The tuition fee is RMB 99,000 per year.

Project Description:

To cultivate research talents with global leadership, interdisciplinary innovation capabilities, and international research collaboration capabilities, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU) fully leverages its characteristics of international education and builds upon the long-established strategic cooperation among XJTLU, Xi'an Jiaotong University (XJTU), and the University of Liverpool (UoL). This initiative integrates top-tier research resources to launch a Joint Doctoral Supervision Programme across the three institutions.

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a chronic functional encephalopathy caused by the degeneration of dopamine neurons in the midbrain, which leads to decreased motor ability, physiological and psychological disorders, and eventually premature death. Exploring new mechanisms of PD remains one of the most important scientific questions in the field.

Our previous study found that synaptotagmin-11 (Syt11) is not only an important brake protein for vesicular endocytosis (EMBO Rep, 2016), but also mediates neurotoxicity and Parkinson-like pathologic processes caused by an important PD risk gene by interfering with dopamine vesicle cycle (Nat Commun, 2018). On this basis, we will propose a new hypothesis of vesicle cycle in PD. This project will aim to elucidate the critical role of Syt11 in sporadic PD, and the effectiveness of Syt11 as a therapeutic target for PD.

Joint Supervisory Team:

XJTLU supervisor: Dr Xi Zhang

XJTU supervisor: Dr Changhe Wang

UoL supervisor: Professor Michael Clague

XJTLU Co-supervisor: Dr Jianrui Song

How to Apply:

Interested applicants are advised to email Xi.Zhang@xjtlu.edu.cn the following documents for initial review and assessment (Please include 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