

Admission F.A.Q. (Frequently Asked Questions) – for PhD

Q1: How long does it take to pursue a PhD degree programme? Is the PhD degree awarded by Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU) or the University of Liverpool (UoL) in the UK?

A: Full-time PhD students typically take 3-4 years to complete their studies, while part-time students usually require 4-6 years. Both full-time and part-time students can obtain a PhD degree certificate awarded by the University of Liverpool and a corresponding certificate from Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University upon meeting the graduation requirements. The degree certificate is recognized by the Ministry of Education of China.

Q2: Do I need to contact a supervisor before applying? How can I identify a supervisor whose research aligns with my interests?

A: Before submitting an application, applicants should contact and obtain confirmation from a potential supervisor. It is recommended that applicants send their research proposal, CV, and full academic transcripts to the potential supervisor to facilitate an assessment of their academic background, research interests, and research potential. Information about PhD supervisors is available on the webpage of each PhD programme.

You can also use our [PhD Supervisor Matching Assistant](#) to find potential supervisors whose academic background or research interests align with yours.

Q3: Do I need to prepare for the interview in advance? What is the interview format?

A: Before the interview, applicants will receive a detailed email outlining the interview format, process, and specific arrangements. The interview typically includes a self-introduction and a presentation of the applicant's research proposal. Applicants are encouraged to prepare by considering their academic background and research experience, research proposal, research potential, and future research plans. It is also recommended that applicants communicate with their potential principal supervisor in advance to help them prepare for the interview. Where possible, interviews are normally conducted in person.

Q4: Does XJTLU offer PhD students scholarships and teaching assistant posts?

A: XJTLU offers scholarships to outstanding full-time PhD students. Students awarded a full scholarship will have their tuition fees waived and receive a monthly stipend of 5,000 RMB. Other students may also apply for teaching assistant or research assistant positions, with compensation based on the university's standard rates.

Q5: What is the study mode for a PhD at XJTLU? Will I mainly attend classes or conduct research?

A: XJTLU's PhD programmes are primarily research-based, with PhD students undertaking independent research under the guidance of their supervisory team. In addition, the University offers a range of doctoral skills training courses to help PhD students strengthen their disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge and develop the professional and transferable skills needed for their academic and career development.

Q6: How can I apply for an XJTLU PhD scholarship? Can I continue with my PhD application if I don't receive a scholarship?

A: For detailed information on scholarship applications, please refer to the scholarship page on the university's website. Applicants who are not awarded a scholarship, with the School approval, may choose to self-fund their PhD studies or apply for the next round of scholarship evaluations.

Q7: Does XJTLU offer Industry-sponsored and jointly supervised opportunities? How is the supervisory team structured?

A: Applicants may have the opportunity to participate in the Industry-sponsored and jointly supervised PhD projects, which support research in areas such as advanced materials, information technology, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, biomedicine, and energy and environmental protection. PhD students on this programme are jointly supervised by XJTLU supervisors, a UoL supervisor, and an industry supervisor. The XJTLU and UoL supervisors provide academic guidance and research supervision, while the industry supervisor offers practical and industry-oriented support. Through this collaborative supervisory model, PhD students are encouraged to bridge academic research and real-world applications while completing their research to a high standard. For more information, please visit the "PhD Scholarships" page on the University website.

Q8: How to prepare my PhD research proposal?

A: You are encouraged to contact potential supervisors via email. Your supervisors will give you some useful suggestions on how to write PhD research proposals. For detailed information, please refer to our PhD research proposal [template](#).

Q9: What kind of recommendation letters would be appropriate for PhD application?

A: The recommendation letters should be issued recently for the purpose of your XJTLU PhD application with company/university letterhead. The letter cannot be issued by the potential supervisors. At least one referee should be someone who has taught you at the highest degree level. If you are a graduate, you may provide one employer reference in place of an academic reference.

Q10: Are there opportunities to get dedicated research funding support?

A: As a registered PhD student, you may apply for dedicated research funding to cover travel expenses for attending conferences. You will also have the opportunity to undertake a research visit to the University of Liverpool or Xi'an Jiaotong University, subject to separate arrangements.

Q11: Which English language tests are accepted by the university? What are the language requirements?

A: We accept IELTS (Academic), TOEFL iBT, and PTE (Academic) for the PhD programme. The test must be taken at an authorised test centre, and the test result is valid for two years from the test date to the programme start date. The language requirement is an IELTS score of 6.5 or 7, or the equivalent. Requirements may vary by programme. For detailed information, please visit the official XJTLU website.

IELTS One Skill Retakes are accepted if taken within 60 days of the original test date. MyBest Scores of TOEFL iBT are not accepted.

Q12: I completed my previous degree in a programme taught entirely in English. Am I eligible for an English language requirement exemption?

A: Applicants may be exempt from the English language requirement if they are nationals of a majority English-speaking country, as defined by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), or if they have completed a degree at XJTLU or at an institution in a majority English-speaking country (Chinese joint venture programmes are not included), provided that the degree was awarded no more than two years before the start date of the PhD programme.

Q13: I am about to graduate, but I have not yet obtained my degree certificate or complete transcript, and I am still preparing for the language proficiency exam. Can I submit my PhD application?

A: You can submit your PhD application via the online system first. The Graduate School will provide feedback based on the materials you submit. Please note that a degree certificate (or proof of completion), a complete transcript, and language proficiency certificates are required application materials. Only complete applications will proceed to the formal review process.

Q14: What are the requirements for PhD graduation?

A: The university implements rigorous process management to ensure the quality of training. During the studies, each PhD student is required to participate in annual assessments and defenses, during which an independent review panel evaluates their progress. Only students who pass the assessment can register for the following academic year, and graduation is granted only after successfully defending the final thesis.

Q15: What is the review process for PhD applications?

A: The PhD admissions process consists of UoL project review and PhD application review. All PhD projects must first be approved by the UoL before applications can proceed to review. Student applications are reviewed by XJTLU and then forwarded to the UoL for the final admission decision.

As the process involves multiple stages across both universities, the overall timeline may vary depending on the circumstances of each application. We make every effort to process applications efficiently, and applicants are encouraged to allow sufficient time for the admissions process.

博士录取常见问题：

1. 西交利物浦大学博士学位的学制是几年？博士学位由哪里颁发？可以获得中国教育部的学历认证吗？

答：全日制博士生通常需要 3-4 年完成学业；非全日制博士生通常需要 4-6 年完成学业。全日制和非全日制博士生在达到毕业要求后，均可获得由英国利物浦大学颁发的博士学位证书及西交利物浦大学相应证书。该博士学位证书可获得中国教育部的认证。

2. 我需要在申请前联系导师吗？如何选择与自己的科研方向匹配的导师？

答：在提交申请前，申请人需主动联系并确认意向导师。建议申请人将研究计划、个人简历及完整成绩单发给意向导师，以便其更好地了解申请人的教育背景、研究兴趣及科研潜力。博士生导师信息可在各博士专业页面查看。申请人也可以使用[西浦博士生导师匹配助手](#)，匹配与自身学术背景或科研方向相关的博士生导师。

3. 我需要提前准备面试吗？面试的形式和要求是怎样的？

答：面试前，申请人将通过邮件收到详细通知，其中包括面试形式、流程及具体安排。面试通常要求申请人进行自我介绍及研究计划展示，申请人可从个人背景与科研经历、研究计划、科研潜力与未来规划等方面进行准备。建议申请人提前与主导师沟通，以便更好地准备面试。通常会优先安排线下面试。

4. 西交利物浦大学提供博士奖学金及助教岗位吗？

答：西交利物浦大学为优秀的全日制博士生提供奖学金。获得全额奖学金的学生，将免除学费，并获得每月 5000 元生活补助。其他学生也可以申请助教或科研助理岗位，薪酬按照学校标准支付。

5. 在西浦读博，学习模式是怎样的？日常主要是上课还是做研究？

答：西交利物浦大学博士项目以科研为核心，博士生在导师团队指导下进行独立课题研究。此外，大学提供一系列博士技能培训课程，帮助博士生在所选学科及多学科领域内夯实知识基础和专业技能，并赋能博士生的个人和职业发展。

6. 如何申请西交利物浦大学的博士奖学金？如果没有获得奖学金我还可以继续博士申请吗？

答：大学为优秀的全日制博士申请人提供丰富多样的奖学金，申请人可选择申请已获奖学金资助的博士项目。此类项目已明确研究课题和导师团队，每个项目招收一名博士生，不设具体申请截止日期，招满即止。申请人也可申请优秀博士生入学奖学金。在提交博士申请时，可一并注明奖学金申请意向。学院及大学评审委员会将结合申请者的学术背景、科研潜力、科研经历及科研成果等进行综合评估，择优推荐。对于未获评该类奖学金的申请人，经学院推荐，可申请自费读博。

7. 西交利物浦大学有哪些产学研合作的项目？导师团队是怎么组成的？

答：申请人将有机会参与产业联培博士奖学金项目，研究领域涵盖先进材料、信息技术、人工智能、装备制造、生物医药及能源环保等方向。参与该项目的博士生将由西浦校内导师、利物浦导师及产业导师联合指导。校内导师与利物浦导师主要负责学术理论和研究方法的指导，产业导师则侧重于提供实践环节的指导。三方协同合作，助力学生将理论知识转化为实际成果，确保高质量完成课题研究。更多信息可访问官网“博士生奖学金”页面查看。

8. 提交申请材料，对博士研究课题项目计划书有什么要求？

答：申请人须独立撰写一份全英文博士研究课题项目计划书，内容须与其拟开展的研究方向一致。博士研究项目申请书模板可参考官网（[链接](#)）。申请人也可通过邮件咨询意向导师，寻求学术指导。

9. 提交申请材料，对推荐信有什么要求？

答：申请人需要提供两封推荐信，其中至少包含一封由申请人最高学历阶段的授课老师出具的学术推荐信。如果申请人已参加工作，可以提供一封雇主推荐信和一封学术推荐信。推荐信需使用推荐人所在单位抬头纸，注明推荐人职位、联系方式并附其手写签名。推荐信需是近期出具并用于申请人申请博士学位的目的。

10. 在博士就读期间，我能获得哪些专项研究资金支持？

答：大学为博士生提供参与国内外学术会议的专项经费支持，并支持赴英国利物浦大学或西安交通大学进行研究访学。

11. 大学接受哪些语言考试成绩？语言成绩要求是什么？

答：接受雅思（学术类）、托福 iBT 及培生英语（学术类）线下考试成绩作为英语能力证明，且语言证书日期距拟入学日期不超过两年。接受雅思考试的单科重考成绩，不接受其他类型的考试拼分，如托福考试的‘MyBest Scores’。各专业具体要求可浏览西浦官网 - 博士招生 - 录取要求页面查看。

12. 我毕业于全英文授课的项目，这种情况可以免语言吗？

答：如果申请人符合以下条件之一，可免除英语要求：英语母语国家公民，具体国家以英国签证与移民局（UKVI）发布的清单为准；在西交利物浦大学或英语母语的院校完成学位（不包括中外合作办学机构及项目），且学位授予日期距拟入学日期不超过两年。

13. 我即将毕业，但尚未取得学位证书及完整的成绩单，同时在准备语言考试，我可以提交博士申请吗？

答：你可以先在线提交博士申请，研究生院会根据你递交的材料，给出相应的反馈意见。请注意，学位证书（或完读证明）、完整成绩单以及语言成绩是必要的申请材料，材料完整方可进入正式审核流程。

14. 博士毕业有什么要求？

答：大学对培养质量进行严格的过程管理。在读期间每位博士生均需参加年度评估与答辩，并由独立评审小组对其阶段性成果进行考核，考核通过者方能注册到下一学年，在通过最终博士论文答辩后方可毕业。

15. 提交申请后，大概多久能出结果？审核流程是怎样的？

答：博士审核流程包含课题审批和学生申请审核两部分：所有博士课题需先经英国利物浦大学批准后方可进入学生申请审核阶段。学生申请将先由西交利物浦大学进行审核，随后转交英国利物浦大学进行最终审核并作出是否录取的决定。由于流程涉及两校多环节协同以及课题审批等因素，整体周期会因具体情况而有所差异。我们将尽力确保各环节高效推进，也建议申请人预留充足时间，以便合理规划申请进程。