

### PhD studentship (Full-time)

Institution	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China
School	School of Science
Supervisors	Principal supervisor: Professor Eben Goodale (XJTLU) Co-supervisor: Dr. Jakob Bro-Jorgensen (University of Liverpool)
Application Deadline	Open until the position is filled
Funding Availability	Funded PhD project (world-wide students)
Project Title	How mixed-species flocking influences the movement decisions of birds
Contact	Please contact Eben.Goodale@xjtlu.edu.cn with a subject line of the PhD project title

#### **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. Previous publications and excellent quantitative and programming skills are preferred. Bird identification skills are required, and experience capturing, handling, and tracking birds are preferred.

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) and provides a monthly stipend of 5,000 RMB 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 holders are expected to conduct the majority of their research at XJTLU in Suzhou, China and in the field in Zhejiang Province.

**Project Description:** Animals' perception or risk of predation influences their decision-making, including how to move across fragmented landscapes. One factor that influences both predation risk and movement is sociality, as animals have diluted risk of predation in groups. In this project we hypothesize that birds will be more likely to cross between fragments when they associate with other species, compared to when they are solitary or in flocks of conspecifics. We will test this hypothesis at China's foremost research platform for fragmentation research, Thousand Island Lake in Zhejiang Province, using Bluetooth transmitters and receivers.

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 Professor Eben Goodale:

Eben.Goodale@xjtlu.edu.cn

whose personal profile is linked below:

<https://scholar.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/persons/EbenGoodale>