



JOB OFFER

The Earth System Science research group at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel searches for collaborators (PhD & Postdocs) for its activities in the frame of the Interuniversity Attraction Pole « PLANET TOPERS »

Planets: Tracing the Transfer, Origin, Preservation, and Evolution of their Reservoirs

Thanks to major funding from the Belgian Science Policy for the period 2012-2017, scientific positions at PhD and Postdoctoral levels are available starting in October 2012 to work on habitability of planets and moons of our solar system.

The positions are offered in the frame of an Interuniversity Attraction Pole « PLANET TOPERS ». <http://iuap-planet-topers.oma.be> provides a description of this research initiative and the partners.

The PhD contracts will be for two years renewable up to 4 years, the postdoctoral positions will be one or two years and may be extended up to 5 years.

Starting dates are flexible. A first round is expected in October 2012, at the initiation of the project. However, applications will remain open during the five year course of Planet Toppers or until all positions are filled.

The Earth System Science group is looking to hire PhD students and Postdoctoral researchers to work on: ***impact and cratering processes throughout Earth History (Late Heavy Bombardment, Precambrian ejecta layers, KT boundary, Late Eocene etc.), comet or asteroid showers on Earth, identification of projectiles as well as cosmochemistry/geochemistry of (micro)meteorites.*** The objective of the work within Planet Toppers is to better understand the flux of ET objects on Earth and their consequences for the habitability and bio-geo-evolution of the planet. Another objective is to document the source of these projectiles and the evolution of their parent bodies.

Enthusiastic and motivated scientists are encouraged to apply even if they are not available on October 1st, 2012. The competitive salary makes it possible to live comfortably in Brussels and includes benefits.

For questions contact Philippe Claeys (phclaeys@vub.ac.be) or Steven Goderis (steven.goderis@vub.ac.be) by e-mail only, for information on our research: we.vub.ac.be/~essc.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR

The ideal candidate has an Academic master degree in Science or Engineering and a PhD (for the postdoctoral positions), and combines many of the following characteristics:

- Scientific curiosity
- Strong interest in space research
- Quick learner
- Creative and pragmatic problem-solving approach
- Knowledge of petrography, geochemistry, familiar with analytical techniques, meteorites, impact processes,
- Capability to work in English.

HOW TO APPLY

Send your CV with a cover letter and the names of two or three references (all in PDF format) by August 1st, 2012 to **Philippe Claeys**, phclaeys@vub.ac.be with copy to v.dehant@oma.be, Head of Operational Direction 'Reference Systems and Planetology' at ROB.

Assessment of applications will start in early August 2012. Commencement of employment is on October 1st, 2012 or later.