JOB OFFER

The PPP/Palaeobiogeology Group, at the Department of Geology of the University of Liège searches for collaborators (PhDs and 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 the 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 two 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 Topers or until all positions are filled. The competitive salary makes it possible to live comfortably in Liège and includes benefits.

The PPP/Palaeobiogeology Group in particular is looking for

-a PhD student to work on: the identification and preservation of traces of life in early Earth and analog extreme environments, focusing on microbial (cyanobacteria) mats signatures and preservation in recent Antarctic sediments and in Precambrian rocks. The objective of the work is to characterize unambiguous signatures of cyanobacteria, trace their evolution, the timing of ocean and atmosphere oxygenation, and the consequences for the bio-geo-evolution of Earth.

- a PhD student to work on the identification, preservation and characterization of traces of life in early Earth, in particular in Archean and Proterozoic sedimentary rocks. The objective of the work is to characterize unambiguous signatures of early life, to determine the redox conditions of their paleoenvironments, and the consequences for the bio-geo-evolution of Earth.

- a Postdoctoral researcher to work on: the identification, preservation and characterization of unambiguous traces of life in early Earth, in particular the fossilization processes in Archean and Proterozoic siliciclastic rocks, from the micro to the nanoscale, and the abiotic processes producing pseudofossils. The objective of the work is to refine criteria and approaches for life detection in early Earth and Mars sedimentary rocks.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR

The ideal candidate has an Academic master or PhD degree in Science, and combines many of the following characteristics: Scientific curiosity, Strong interest in space research and in early life evolution, Quick learner, Creative and pragmatic problem-solving approach, Knowledge of biology, mineralogy, (geo)chemistry, analytical techniques (spectroscopy, Microscopy) is a plus, Capability to work in English, in the field.

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 **Emmanuelle Javaux (ej.javaux@ulg.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.