



JOB OFFER

The PPP/Palaeobiogeology Group, at the Department of Geology of the University of Liège searches for collaborators (PhDs, Postdocs, spectroscopist) for its activities in the frame of the

ERC PROJECT “ELiTE” : Early Life Traces, Evolution, and Implications for Astrobiology

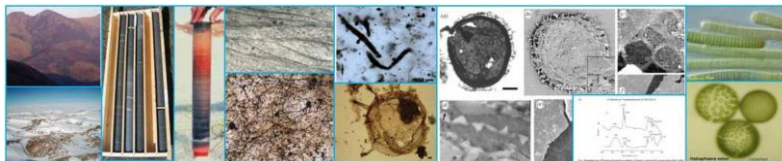
Thanks to major funding from the FP7 European Research Council for the period 2012-2017, scientific positions are available, starting from January 2013, to work on the early biosphere evolution, in particular early life traces and the emergence and rise of biological complexity (cyanobacteria, eukaryotes) in the Precambrian.

The PhD contracts will be for 4 years, the postdoctoral positions will be 2 years, and a (micro-FTIR & Raman) spectroscopist position for 5 years. Several starting dates are possible.

The PPP/Palaeobiogeology Group is looking for 3 PhD students, 2 Postdocs and a spectroscopist to work on:

- PhD1: the characterization and determination of biological affinities of late Mesoproterozoic and Neoproterozoic microfossils from sedimentary successions in Congo and other contemporaneous successions
- PhD2: the characterization of early traces of life in Archean successions of South Africa, in coll. with ICDP project “peering in the cradle of life” in Barberton, and refinement of criteria for defining biosignatures, with implication for early life evolution
- PhD3: the characterization and biological affinities of Paleo-Mesoproterozoic microfossils from China
- Postdoc1: the geochemical characterization of paleoenvironmental (redox) conditions of fossiliferous proterozoic successions
- Postdoc2: the nanoscale characterization and fossilization processes of organic-walled microfossils
- Spectroscopist: the building of a database of chemical signatures of fossil and modern microorganisms, and support for the ongoing projects of the group in identifying organics (characterization, thermometry) and minerals.

Enthusiastic and motivated scientists are encouraged to apply even if they are not available on January 1st, 2013. The competitive salary makes it possible to live comfortably in Liège and includes benefits.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR

The ideal candidate has an Academic master Degree (for PhDs and spectroscopist positions) or PhD (for postdocs) in Science (Geology, Biology, or Chemistry), and combines many of the following characteristics:

- Scientific curiosity
- Strong interest in early life evolution
- Quick learner
- Creative and pragmatic problem-solving approach
- Knowledge of biology, geology, mineralogy, (geo)chemistry, micro- to nano-scale analytical techniques (such as spectroscopy, electron microscopy, ..) is a plus

HOW TO APPLY

Send your CV with a cover letter and the names and contact information of two or three references (all in PDF format) by **October 1st, 2012** to **Emmanuelle Javaux (ej.javaux@ulg.ac.be)**

