



JOB OFFERS

The Earth System Science research group at the *Vrije Universiteit Brussel* searches collaborators (PhD & Postdocs) in the framework of the Interuniversity Attraction Pole "PLANET TOPERS"

Planets: Tracing Transfer, Origin, Preservation, & Evolution of their Reservoirs

Thanks to major funding from the Belgian Science Policy for the period 2012-2017, several positions at PhD and Postdoctoral levels are available at the VUB 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 with extension possible based on performance.

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 VUB Earth System Science (ESSC) group is looking for 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, i.e the meteorites 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 salary makes it possible to live comfortably in Brussels and includes many benefits.

For questions contact: Philippe Claeys (phclaeys@vub.ac.be) or Steven Goderis (steven.goderis@vub.ac.be) by e-mail; info on ESSC research we.vub.ac.be/~essc

WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Candidates with a master degree in Earth Sciences or related field or a PhD with combination of many of the following characteristics:

- Scientific curiosity
- Strong interest in planetary science
- Quick learner with creative and pragmatic problem-solving approach
- Skill in petrography, geochemistry, familiar with analytical techniques, meteorites, impact process is an asset
- Capability to work in English.

HOW TO APPLY

Send your CV with a cover letter and the names of three references (all in PDF) to **Philippe Claeys**, phclaeys@vub.ac.be with copy to v.dehant@oma.be, Head of Operational Direction 'Reference Systems and Planetology', Royal Observatory Belgium.

Applications are accepted until all positions have been filled.