

The German Aerospace Center (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. – DLR) is Germany's national research center for aeronautics and space and Germany's space agency. Its extensive research and development work are in Aeronautics, Space, Transportation and Energy. Approximately 5,600 people are employed at thirteen locations in Germany.

We invite applications for

5 PhD and 3 Post-doc positions

at the Institute of Planetary Research of DLR (German Aerospace Center) Berlin, Germany. The position will be funded by the Helmholtz-Society through the Research Alliance "Planetary Evolution and Life". The Alliance is led and managed by the DLR Institute of Planetary Research.

The focus of the candidates individual research will be in one of the following:

- interior dynamics of planets and their effects on the exchange of volatiles between the interior and the atmo- and hydrospheres,
- investigation of the geological context of life in the Solar System,
- investigation of the atmospheres of Earth and Mars during different stages of their evolution to understand the conditions needed for the development of life,
- development of mathematical models of an expanding impact cloud and the related chemical processes in the planetary atmosphere, among others during the "Late Heavy Bombardments" on Earth,
- construction of numerical models of the interior structure, composition and evolution of earth-like planets and moons as well as terrestrial-type extrasolar planets, and
- investigation of physical and life-supporting processes and properties of and in undercooled liquid interfacial water films.

The projects are part of a Research Alliance with scientists from various fields aiming to gain a better understanding of the evolution of habitability of terrestrial planets. Post-doc and PhD students will profit from an extensive training programme including soft skills.

Desired qualification:

Candidates for the Post-doc positions must have a recent Ph.D. in physics, astronomy, geophysics, geosciences, or planetary sciences. In addition experience in one or several of the fields listed above are required. Programming skills in languages such as FORTRAN, MatLab®, or scripting languages in a UNIX environment are desirable.

Candidates for the PhD positions must have a university degree in one of the natural sciences, applied mathematics, or computer sciences.

A strong interest for planetary sciences and willingness to participate in an interdisciplinary research environment is beneficial.

English and German are working languages in the research department.

Begin of employment: 1-April-2008

Duration of employment: 3 years

Salary: Payment is according to a civil service position TVöD 13 for a Post-doc position (or 50% TVöD 13 for PhD position)

Applicants should send a statement of research interest, a curriculum vitae with a list of publications, names of three referees and the relevant certifications.

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