

PhD Position in Cometary Science

The Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research (MPS) in Göttingen, Germany, invites applications for a PhD position in the “Comet and Asteroid Activity” research group funded by an ERC Starting Grant. The position will be embedded in the International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) for Solar System Science at the University of Göttingen (<http://www.mps.mpg.de/solar-system-school>).

The goal of the project will be to characterise the global distribution of dust emission from comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko through a combined approach of mining data from the European Space Agency's Rosetta spacecraft and numerical simulations of the dust motion in the complex gravity and gas flow fields of the bilobed comet. The measurements to be analysed are the first of their kind, and the project will cast new light on why comets are active and how they release material to interplanetary space. The project requires solid programming skills and the ability to perceive the complex interplay of spacecraft and dust motion in the environment of a rotating comet.

A detailed project description can be found at <http://www.mps.mpg.de/phd/cometary-science-rosetta-debris-dynamics>

Applications should be submitted through the online application portal (<https://www.mps.mpg.de/phd/application>) no later than November 15, 2018. In your online application, please specify and motivate your choice of this particular project within the Comet and Asteroid Activity research group. Once the online portal indicates that your application is complete with all reference letters in, please send an e-mail to the project advisor to alert her of your submission. Applications for this particular project can be fast-tracked with respect to the overall selection process, and review will begin as soon as the application material is complete.

Remuneration will be through a three-year doctoral support contract (<https://www.mps.mpg.de/phd/funding>).

The Max Planck Society strives to increase the proportion of women in areas where they are underrepresented. Women are therefore explicitly encouraged to apply. Applications from persons with disabilities are encouraged and will be favoured in the case of equally qualified applicants.

For inquiries about the project please contact Jessica Agarwal (agarwal@mps.mpg.de).