Freie Universität Berlin - Fachbereich Physik - Institut für Experimentalphysik | Dritt- mittelprojekt Freigeist - Finding Life

Research assistant (Postdoc) (m/f/d)
full-time job | limited to 3 years | Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L FU | **Reference code:** Freigeist-FindingLife

City: Berlin; Starting Date: At the earliest possible; Duration: limited to 3 years; Renumeration: Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L FU; Reference number: Freigeist-FindingLife; Closing date: 11/05/20

Task
We offer a research assistant position (postdoc) in the “Experimental Biophysics and Space Sciences” group in the Physics Department of Freie Universität Berlin. The position is part of the project ‘Finding Life’, funded by the Freigeist program of the Volkswagen Foundation, and focuses on how we can potentially detect life on another planet. Within the frame of the project, it is planned to mimic exotic planetary and atmospheric conditions in the laboratory in order to study their impact on the stability of spectroscopic signature of potential biomarkers and molecules, which are associated to life. The project is embedded in international collaborations with partner in Europe and the US, and it is linked to Projekts on an outside exposure platform on the International Space Station in order to investigate the molecular stability of biosignatures in space. We offer a creative and inspiring environment for experimental approaches and interesting research in the fields of planetary and space sciences. Moreover, we highly encourage and provide opportunities for new ideas and projects.

**Job description:**

We are looking for highly motivated candidates with an interest in interdisciplinary research in the fields of biophysics, astrophysics, astrochemistry, astrobiology and space sciences. A main task of the project is the design, planning and realisation of experiments for simulating planetary conditions in the laboratory. The selected candidate will analyse, present (conferences) and publish (peer-reviewed literature) spectroscopic and mass-spectrometric data from the planetary simulations and supervise students associated with the project. Further research and administrative/organisational activities within the research project and within the department will also be part of the envisaged tasks. Due to the international links and collaborations, it is required to plan, conduct and synchronise experiments with project partners, which includes interactions with the German Space Agency (DLR), the European Space and Technology Centre (ESTEC/ESA) and NASA Ames Research Center.

Qualifications

- Master degree (or equivalent) in Physics or related disciplines
- completed PhD

Offer postet on 30/03/20

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**Desirable:**
- Doctoral degree in Physics, Space Sciences, Planetary Sciences or related fields. Profound experience with organising and conducting research projects and scientific publications Support for research proposals and funding projects
- Ability, interest and experience to work in an interdisciplinary research field
- Creativity and ideas for new and unconventional solutions and research projects
- Very good English language skills, very good communication skills
- Strong (self-)motivation, commitment, ability to work independently as well as in a team

**Application**
For further information please contact Mr. Dr. Andreas Elsaesser (a.elsaesser@fu-berlin.de / +49 30 838 59199).

All applications (including a CV, a record of academic degrees, a letter of motivation and research interests, and two reference letters) quoting the reference code should be directed preferably electronically (in one pdf-file) to Dr. Andreas Elsäßer: a.elsaesser@fu-berlin.de or postal to:

Freie Universität Berlin  
Fachbereich Physik  
Institut für Experimentalphysik  
Drittmittelprojekt Freigeist - Finding Life  
Herrn Dr. Andreas Elsäßer  
Arnimallee 14  
14195 Berlin (Dahlem)

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Offer visible until 29/04/20