

The **Solar System School** invites applications for

PhD Positions in Solar System Science

The International Max Planck Research School for Solar System Science at the University of Göttingen ("Solar System School") offers a research-oriented doctoral program covering the physical aspects of Solar system science. It is jointly run by the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research (MPS) and the University of Göttingen. Research at the MPS covers three main areas: "Sun and Heliosphere", "Solar and Stellar Interiors" and "Planets and Comets". Solar System School students collaborate with leading scientists in these fields and graduates are awarded a doctoral degree from the renowned University of Göttingen or, if they choose, another university.

The Solar System School is open to students from all countries and offers an international three-year PhD program in an exceptional research environment with state-of-the-art facilities on the Göttingen Campus. Successful applicants will be offered a three-year doctoral support contract as well as postdoc wrap-up funding. The language of the structured graduate program is English, with complimentary German language courses offered (optional). The program includes an inspiring curriculum of scientific lectures and seminars as well as advanced training workshops and provides travel funds to attend international conferences.

Applicants to the Solar System School should have a keen interest in Solar system science and a record of academic excellence. They must have, or must be about to obtain, an M.Sc. degree or equivalent in physics or a related field, including a written Masters thesis (or a scientific publication), and must document a good command of the English language.

Review of applications for a starting date of September 2016 will begin on **15 November 2015**, but other starting times are also negotiable. The positions are awarded on a competitive basis. Applicants must submit the following documents through the online application portal linked from <http://www.solar-system-school.de>

- an application form to be filled online, including two short texts describing the applicant's scientific interests and their motivation to apply for PhD projects in the Solar System School, along with the applicant's choice of up to three PhD projects;
- a curriculum vitae in pdf format;
- degree certificates and full transcripts of all academic records: i.e. scanned copies of B.Sc. and M.Sc. degree certificates (or equivalent), and lists of all courses with credits and grades issued by the respective school or university, with English or German translations;
- contact details for two or more referees who have agreed to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of the applicant. The referees will be contacted by the School and will be asked to submit their letters through the online portal.

It is highly recommended to also submit an English language certificate (e.g. TOEFL / IELTS); and GRE Physics test scores if available.

The Solar System School is committed to diversity. The MPS is an equal opportunity employer and places particular emphasis on providing career opportunities for women. Applications of handicapped persons are encouraged and will be favored in case of comparable qualifications.

For further information please consult the online application instructions and direct any inquiries to the IMPRS scientific coordinator, Dr. Sonja Schuh, at info@solar-system-school.de.