

Research Fellow - School of Physics and Astronomy - 103749 - Grade 7

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Company: University of Birmingham

Location: United Kingdom

Category: life-physical-and-social-science

Summary

We are seeking to appoint two motivated UKRI-funded postdoctoral researchers as part of the FLF project “Finding a second Earth through stellar understanding” - PI Mortier. This research project aims to improve the precise and stable extraction of stellar radial velocity from high-resolution spectra, taking into account the effects of stellar magnetic variability; build, deploy and exploit a polarising Solar Telescope connected with a high-resolution stabilised spectrograph; study the Sun-as-a-star during Solar maximum, connecting the large-scale magnetic flux variations with the observed radial velocity variability; and put Earth in an exoplanet context focusing on the chemical diversity of planets and their hosts. The successful applicant should have expertise in the use of astronomical data and depending on the role, have expertise in either astronomical instrumentation, stellar variability, or stellar and exoplanet characterisation.

The successful applicant will work primarily with Dr Annelies Mortier and other members in her team.

Role requirements include:

PhD in astrophysics/astronomy or equivalent expertise

Expertise in the use of astronomical and/or Solar data

Proven track record in at least one of: stellar characterisation, stellar variability, exoplanet characterisation, astronomical instrumentation

Main Duties

The responsibilities may include some but not all of the responsibilities outlined below.

Analyse and interpret data

Apply knowledge in a way which develops new intellectual understanding

Disseminate research findings for publication, research seminars etc.

Supervise students on research related work and provide guidance to PhD students where appropriate to the discipline

Collect research data; this may be through a variety of research methods, such as scientific experimentation, literature reviews, and research interviews

Present research outputs, including drafting academic publications or parts thereof, for example at seminars and as posters

Provide guidance, as required, to support staff and any students who may be assisting with the research
Contribute to developing new models, techniques and methods

Undertake management/administration arising from research

Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, with assistance of a mentor if required

Contribute to writing bids for research funding

Contribute to Departmental/School research-related activities and research-related administration

Contribute to enterprise, business development and/or public engagement activities of manifest benefit to the College and the University, often under supervision of a project leader

Deal with problems that may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines

Promote equality, value diversity, acting as a role model, and fostering an inclusive working culture

Person Specification

First degree in area of specialism and a PhD degree (or near to completion) relevant to research

area or equivalent qualifications

High level analytical capability

Ability to communicate complex information clearly

Fluency in relevant models, techniques or methods and ability to contribute to developing new ones

Ability to assess resource requirements and use resources effectively

Understanding of and ability to contribute to broader management/administration processes

Contribute to the planning and organising of the research programme and/or specific research project

Co-ordinate own work with others to avoid conflict or duplication of effort

Knowledge of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010, and how to actively ensure in day-to-day activity in own area that those with protected characteristics are treated equally and fairly

Application process

You should make sure to attach the following to your application as one pdf file: a cover letter (max 1 page); a CV (max 2 pages); a full publication list; a research statement (max 3 pages); an EDI statement (max 1 page).

An online form will ask for contact details for three referees who we can contact at any point in the process. In the form, you will also get a mandatory question asking to specify the reasons to apply. You should simply point to your uploaded document.

All applications received by the deadline (Sunday 19th May 2024) will receive full consideration. We anticipate interviews to take place 5th June 2024.

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