

Assistant Professor in Planetary Science

The Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of California invites applicants for a tenure-track Assistant Professor Faculty position in Planetary Science. Examples of expertise for the prospective hire include planetary surface processes, atmospheric chemistry, or laboratory geochemistry designed to recapitulate planetary environments within the solar system – for example, the Martian subsurface or icy moons. We seek candidates who are interested in advancing our scientific knowledge of the origin and history of our solar system and the potential for past or present life beyond Earth, building on our existing strengths in astrobiology. The successful candidate will pursue laboratory, numerical, and/or field investigations of the habitability, survivability, and detectability of life on other planets and icy moons. These goals may be achieved through study of Earth analog field sites, ground, and/or space-based observations, and/or through laboratory or numerical simulation of surface and/or interior planetary conditions, among other possibilities. We are particularly interested in candidates with current involvement or potential for involvement in current or future planetary missions. This position will start on July 1, 2025.

The successful candidate will be fully engaged in the teaching mission of the Department and the College, including formal classroom and field instruction at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and mentoring of baccalaureate, MS, and PhD students in research and the process of knowledge development. The successful candidate will have access to facilities through the University of California Observatories, including the Keck telescopes located in Hawaii.

Research in the UCR Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences spans a broad range of topics, including Earth dynamics and history, planets inside and outside of our solar system, and life in the universe. Students and faculty investigate planetary, geological, oceanographic, atmospheric, interior, and orbital dynamical processes operating at a wide range of spatial and temporal scales across many disciplines within the Earth and planetary sciences. We are entering an unprecedented era of planetary exploration within and outside of our solar system. Upcoming planetary missions will explore asteroid compositions and origins, the structure and volatile inventory of icy moons, and samples returned from Mars, and unveil the atmospheric and interior evolution of Venus. Meanwhile, the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is revolutionizing the study of both exoplanet atmospheres and space-based remote observations of solar system bodies. In the midst of these advances, our department has made significant leaps in developing expertise in planetary atmospheres, exoplanet observation, astrobiology, and extrapolations of lessons learned from Earth's co-evolving life and environments to worlds beyond. The hiring of a planetary scientist will be a vital asset to the department by expanding our capabilities while bridging to the current strengths within the faculty. This search is particularly relevant in light of the recent Planetary Science and Astrobiology decadal report that emphasized studies and mission support for efforts aimed toward planetary habitability and the search for life in the universe.

The UC salary consists of a base pay of \$74,600 to \$97,200 for Assistant Professors and additional off-scale to be commensurate with market value, qualifications and experiences. The off-scale

portion of the salary will be maintained as long as satisfactory academic progress is made. Additionally, the off-scale will be maintained subject to market adjustments to the UC salary scale.

Basic qualifications for this position that must be met by the **date of application** include:

- Ph.D. or equivalent degree in planetary sciences, astronomy, astrobiology, or a related field,
- Demonstrated excellence in research and demonstrated (or the clear potential for) excellence in teaching.

Preferred qualifications for this position include:

- Demonstrated success in fellowship and/or grant writing.
- Experience in supervising the research of undergraduate and/or graduate students.
- Experience in assisting teaching and/or leading teaching at the undergraduate and/or graduate level.
- Involvement, or potential for involvement, in planetary science and related missions.

Advancement through the Assistant Professor ranks at the University of California is through a series of structured, merit-based evaluations, occurring every 2-3 years each of which includes substantial peer input.

To apply: submit the following items to <https://aprecruit.ucr.edu/apply/JPF01982> :

- Cover Letter;
- Curriculum Vitae;
- 3 Letters of Recommendation;
- Statement of Teaching;
- Statement of Research;
- Statement of Past and/or Planned Future Contributions to Advancing Diversity and Inclusive Excellence.

Review of applications will commence on Decemebr 15, 2024, and proceed until position is filled. For full consideration, applicants should submit their complete applications prior to the above date.

For more information about this position, please contact Dr. Stephen Kane, Chair of the Search Committee, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, at skane@ucr.edu . For questions on application procedures and requirements, please contact Ms. Ashleigh Bennett, Academic Personnel, at Ashleigh.bennett@ucr.edu .

The University of California, Riverside is a world-class research university with an exceptionally diverse undergraduate student body. UCR is a member institution of the American Association of Universities (AAU) as well as the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Research Universities (HRSU). Its mission is explicitly linked to providing routes to educational success for underrepresented and first-generation college students. A commitment to this mission is a preferred qualification.



The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status.

For the University of California's Affirmative Action Policy please visit: <https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4010393/PPSM-20>.

For the University of California's Anti-Discrimination Policy, please visit: <https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/1001004/Anti-Discrimination>."

University of California COVID-19 Vaccination Program Policy: As a University employee, you will be required to comply with all applicable University policies and/or collective bargaining agreements, as may be amended from time to time. Federal, state, or local government directives may impose additional requirements.