The Space Science Group of the Space Research and Planetology Division at the University of Bern has an opening for a

**PhD Position in Experimental Planetary Science**

The successful candidate will prepare and examine analogue samples for the surfaces of the Moon and Mercury and will put the experimental results into the general context of the surfaces and tenuous atmospheres of the Moon and Mercury.

Our research group, together with our colleagues at the Technische Universität of Vienna, will perform high-precision ion sputtering experiments with samples representative for the surfaces of the Moon and Mercury. These experiments will constrain models of surface erosion processes and the formation of tenuous atmospheres of rocky objects in the Solar System. Such models are crucial to prepare instrumentation and measurement strategies for BepiColombo, Luna-Glob, Luna-Resurs, and future missions to Mercury and the Moon. The experiments will also answer several questions about the interaction of energetic ions with composite solid matter in general, with applications in space physics and surface science.

A master’s degree in physics (or equivalent) is required. We are seeking an individual with strong interest for space science and experimental work. Candidates with experience in experimental or theoretical surface science or in the study of planetary surfaces are particularly suitable for the position. Working knowledge of the SRIM software is an asset.

The successful candidate will mostly work at the University of Bern; the salary is according to the regulations of the Swiss National Science Foundation. Regular trips to the laboratory facilities at the Technische Universität in Vienna, Austria, are foreseen. Ability to communicate and work with colleagues from a wide range of functional backgrounds (e.g. engineering, science, management, technical, non-technical, etc.) as part of a diverse international team is essential. The working language is English. Knowledge of German is desired but not required.

Starting date: 1st January or 1st February 2019

To apply, please submit electronically the following documents to André Galli and Peter Wurz (andre.galli@space.unibe.ch, peter.wurz@space.unibe.ch):

- Letter of motivation
- Curriculum vitae with description of previous research experiences (master’s thesis, internships)
- Contact details of people who could provide a letter of reference

Complete applications received by 1st November 2018 will receive full consideration. After this date, applications will be considered depending on availability.