Title: Research Assistant

Location: Lakewood, CO
Employee Type: Full-Time
Hours Per Week: 40
Overtime: No
Travel: Some travel required
Relocation Covered: Negotiable
Desired Start Date: October 26, 2020
Salary: $22-$27 per hour, depending upon experience
Other Benefits: medical, dental, life insurance, disability insurance, vacation time, and more

Post Date: Starting October 1, 2020
Contact Information: PSI Human Resources, Email: hr@psi.edu

Summary Job Description:
The Planetary Science Institute is seeking a Research Assistant to support operations of the Shallow Radar (SHARAD) instrument onboard NASA’s Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) spacecraft, to participate in the development of a new Planetary Orbital Radar Processing and Simulation System (PORPASS), and to contribute to other research projects in our Lakewood, Colorado office.

Key responsibilities:
● Develop software for PORPASS and the Colorado SHARAD Processing System (CO-SHARPS).
● Provide technical support to end users of PORPASS and CO-SHARPS.
● Assist in planning new observations to be taken by SHARAD in the ongoing MRO mission.
● Participate in research projects involving the study of Mars’ surface and subsurface properties using orbital radar soundings, thermophysical observations, and other data.

Management may assign or reassign duties and responsibilities to this job at any time.

Minimum Qualifications:
● Bachelor’s degree in science, engineering, or mathematics
● Experience in web application development, including SQL and PHP scripting
● Proficiency with Linux operating systems and scripting
● Proficiency with Python, IDL, MATLAB, or similar programming languages
● A demonstrated ability to work well with others
Desired Skills:
- Familiarity with wave propagation physics, signal processing techniques, and numerical modeling (seismic data processing and interpretation experience considered highly relevant)
- Experience with processing and analysis of large volumes of data
- Experience in systems and database administration

To apply for the position:
If you are interested in applying for this position and you meet the required qualifications, please submit the following documents to hr@psi.edu:
- A cover letter that substantially addresses your interest and qualifications for this position
- Resume or CV
- Names and contact information for three references familiar with your work
- Completed application form
- Voluntary Self-Identification form

Forms can be obtained on www.psi.edu or by request to hr@psi.edu

Planetary Science Institute
Human Resources
1700 E. Ft. Lowell Rd., Suite 106
Tucson, AZ 85719
Email: hr@psi.edu

PSI is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

The Planetary Science Institute is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to Solar System exploration. It is headquartered in Tucson, Arizona, where it was founded in 1972. PSI scientists are involved in NASA and international missions, the study of Mars and other planets, the Moon, asteroids, comets, interplanetary dust, impact physics, the origin of the Solar System, extra-solar planet formation, dynamic evolution of planetary systems, the rise of life, and other areas of research. They conduct fieldwork on all continents around the world. They also are actively involved in science education and public outreach through school programs, children’s books, popular science books and art. PSI scientists and educators are based in 31 states and the District of Columbia, and work from various international locations.