

Permanent position for Maitre de Conférence (Research/Curation) at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris (MNHN, France); Geobiology of the Precambrian: mineralogy, petrology and traces of Life (starting September 2019)

The department of Mineralogie, Physique des Matériaux et Cosmochimie (IMPMC, <http://www.imPMC.upmc.fr/en/index.html>) is advertising one permanent position of Maitre de Conférence du Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN), in Paris, France. A PhD in a relevant area is required and postdoctoral experience is preferred. It is open to all nationalities. This position will involve Research (50% time dedication), Curation (~40%) and Teaching/broad audience Dissemination (~10%).

The successful candidate will have built a strong research project focused on the study of Precambrian rocks and possibly modern analogues to better understand life/Earth interactions and/or how to look for past traces of life and/or discriminating biotic from abiotic objects in ancient rocks (non-exclusive list). This must involve field-based work and mineralogical/petrological/geochemical analyses at multiple scales of rock samples. Applications of this research to planetary exploration (e.g., Mars) are welcome. This project will create synergies with existing facilities and research groups at IMPMC. Among the 11 research teams at IMPMC, several are involved in the detection of biosignatures in ancient/modern rocks, study of life/mineral interactions, planetary exploration, (see more details on IMPMC website). Moreover, IMPMC hosts several cutting edge facilities for mineralogical, petrological, geochemical and geobiological analyses (e.g., FEG-TEM, monochromated TEM, FEG-SEM, FIB, XRD [powder, single crystal, rotating anode], micro-Raman, infrared spectroscopy, NanoSIMS, Mass spectrometers, biomineralogy laboratory).

MNHN houses a collection of more than 320 000 rock samples (including but not limited to ancient rocks) with an exceptional historical value that can be used for research and public programs within and outside the institute. The selected candidate should have a broad knowledge of petrology in order to take a significant role in the curation of this collection, promote its growth and visibility. The ability to effectively communicate with a wide variety of audiences, including the public, is essential. The successful candidate will participate in museum activities, such as exhibits programs, educational outreach activities, and be involved with professional associations and other organizations within the scientific community.

A pre-registration on the listes de qualifications for Maitres de conférences du MNHN is required (between Sept 6 and October 24. 2018 at https://www.galaxie.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/ensup/cand_qualification_droit_commun.htm). Final application will take place later in Spring 2019. For further information, especially for difficulties with pre-registration please contact Prof. François Guyot, francois.guyot@mnhn.fr