



# JOB OFFER

## The Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB) is looking for a scientist in the frame of a project about the planet Mercury

Thanks to funding from the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO), a scientific position is available in the BRAIN-be project STEM (Structure and Evolution of Mercury's core). The aim of this project is to improve and refine our understanding of the formation and evolution of Mercury's interior from current and future rotation data by developing two separate but closely related pathways, building upon the expertise within the planetary research group at the Royal Observatory of Belgium. We will extend rotation theory to include flow in the outer liquid core and develop a new thermal modelling of Mercury's core to improve the interpretation of geodesy data in terms of interior properties. Planetary geodesy - the study of the rotation, gravity field and shape of a planet - currently constitutes the main source of information on Mercury's interior.

The candidate will contribute to the development of one or both of the two research topics in collaboration with several planetary scientists from the ROB. The candidate will also assist in the writing of peer reviewed publications and scientific reports.

The ROB (<http://www.observatory.be/>) is a Federal Scientific Institute in the green outskirts of Brussels (Uccle). The initial contract is for one year with a possibility for extension depending upon the available funding (salary level SW1 of the scientific personnel). Advantages include a flexible system of working hours.

### WE ARE LOOKING FOR

The ideal candidate has a MSc or PhD in Science or Engineering and combines many of the following characteristics:

- Knowledge in geodesy, geophysics, and mechanics of continuous media
- Experience in numerical modelling
- Experience in planetary sciences
- Working and writing proficiency in English.

### HOW TO APPLY

Send your CV with a motivation letter and names and coordinates of two referees before 1 January 2021 to Tim Van Hoolst, project leader in planetary sciences ([tim.vanhoolst@oma.be](mailto:tim.vanhoolst@oma.be)). The beginning of the employment will be on 1 February 2020 or later.