The Leibniz Institute for Astrophysics Potsdam (AIP) is dedicated to astrophysical questions ranging from the exploration of our Sun to the evolution of the cosmos. Key aspects are cosmic magnetic fields and extragalactic astrophysics, supported by the development of research technology in the fields of spectroscopy, robotic telescopes, and e-science. The institute is located in the beautiful Potsdam-Babelsberg area, at the southwestern border of the Berlin metropolitan area. The AIP continues the tradition of the Astrophysical Observatory Potsdam and the Berlin Observatory (founded 1700) and has about 200 employees.

For the reinforcement of the Milky Way and Local Volume section we are looking to fill a

**Ph.D. student position (m/f/d)**

at the earliest possible date.

**The Position**

The candidate will work in the field of Galactic Archaeology, in particular using Machine Learning techniques to combine data from spectroscopic surveys and ESA's Gaia mission with galaxy formation simulations to improve our understanding of the formation and evolution processes of the Milky Way galaxy.

**Requirements and selection criteria**

Applicants should hold a Master's degree or equivalent in astrophysics or a related discipline at the time of starting the position. Applicants are expected to have experience in scientific coding (preferentially with python). The following skills would be advantageous for the position: experience in stellar spectroscopy and stellar abundance analysis, knowledge of Milky Way formation models and modeling, experience with supervised and unsupervised Machine Learning techniques, advanced English skills.

**Offering**

A salary depending on the requirements of the German public service collective agreement (professional experience and expertise) up to pay grade 66% TV-L E13, as well as the social benefits of the collective agreement for the public service (TV-L) including the company pension VBL with pension for reduced earning capacity and surviving dependents as well as a subsidy for the job ticket. AIP offers an open-minded and cooperative working atmosphere in a modern working environment, very well equipped and located in the middle of a World Heritage Site.

**Application**

If you are interested in this position, please send your application as a single PDF file containing a cover letter, a curriculum vitae, your Master degree certificate (or equivalent) or expected degree completion date, a link to your Master thesis, and a statement of previous research experience (the latter not exceeding two pages) preferably digitally to:

bewerbung_2021-18@aip.de

Applicants should also provide the contact information for two reference letter writers. Selection of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.
Equal opportunities are an integral part of personnel and organisational development at the AIP, therefore applications from men and women are equally welcome. People with disabilities will be given preferential consideration if they are equally qualified and skilled.

Your application documents will be kept for at least three months after completion of the appointment process. As a rule, your documents will be made available to a selection committee and to the committees and officers to be involved.

Contact:
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