



Department of Earth Sciences
Geochemistry Group

Doctoral Student Position in Geochemistry

U-Pb geochronology of sediments from the Ediacaran-Cambrian boundary in the Yangtze platform, China

Applicants are invited for a graduate research assistantship to participate in a collaborative project within the recently funded *DFG research group FOR 736 "The Precambrian-Cambrian Biosphere Revolution: Insights from Chinese Microcontinents"*.

The goal of this project is to develop methods to obtain absolute age constraints on sedimentary and chemical processes and the biological evolution recorded in Ediacaran and Cambrian sediments of the Yangtze Platform in China. An improved geochronological data base is a major requirement for a comprehensive understanding of the chemical and geological framework of biological evolution during this time interval. The project will include field work in China, petrography and electron microprobe analysis of thin sections, sample preparation, element separation in the clean lab, mass spectrometry, as well as data interpretation and publication of results. Interaction with other members of the Sino-German project and participation in workshops and conferences will be an essential ingredient of the project.

The position is funded for 36 months. Starting date is 1.1.2008. Salary level will be according to German public employee pay scale 50 % BAT IIa.

A completed Master, Diplom or equivalent degree in geology, mineralogy or chemistry is required. Practical experience in isotope geochemistry, isotope ratio mass spectrometry or trace element analyses in geological materials would be desirable. Good English communication skills are required. We encourage applications from women and disabled persons.

Please send your application, including CV, copies of degree certificates, and the name of at least one reference by mail or email to Prof. H. Becker, Freie Universität Berlin, Institut für Geologische Wissenschaften, AB Geochemie, Haus B, Malteserstr. 74 – 100, 12249 Berlin, Germany (Email: hbecker@zedat.fu-berlin.de, www.geo.fu-berlin.de/geochemie). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.