



**PhD position**  
**in Theory of Brown Dwarf and Planetary Atmospheres**  
*The electrification of neutral atmospheres*

The [School of Physics & Astronomy](#) of the [University of St Andrews](#) offers a PhD position in brown dwarf and planetary atmosphere theory on the topic of

*Ionisation in atmospheres across the star-planet mass boundary*

We are looking for an excellent graduate student. The graduate student will be part of a newly forming research group LEAP ([www.leap-2010.eu](http://www.leap-2010.eu)) that studies charge processes in planetary atmospheres and is funded by the European Research Council under the FP7 work program Ideas. The PhD student will benefit from the SUPA graduate school, the university's GradSkill program as well as from the lively atmosphere in the department.

The School of Physics & Astronomy of the University of St Andrews offers a young, vibrant and modern work environment with 40% of the astronomy staff members being women. The research in St Andrews combines theoretical, numerical and observational research in extra-solar planets, in protoplanetary disk, in star formation, in magnetic activity, and in star-planet interaction as well as in gravitational lensing and galaxy dynamics.

Applicants for this graduate position should have a degree in astronomy, astrophysics, physics, geophysics, or a closely related field. The graduate student will work under the supervision of Dr Christiane Helling funded by an ERC starting grant with funds for computing, publications, and travel.

For further enquiries, please contact  
Christiane Helling ([Christiane.Helling@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:Christiane.Helling@st-andrews.ac.uk)).

**Deadline:** 30 March 2012

**Starting date:** as soon as possible

Candidates should send a CV and a brief statement of research interest (max. 1 A4 page) and arrange for two letters of reference.

