The UT Austin Planetary Surface Processes Group, headed by Dr. Tim Goudge, has openings for one to two graduate students to begin in Fall 2020, with a preference for PhD students. Strong MSc applicants will also be considered. Our group’s research focuses on the use of remote sensing data to study the record of surface processes on Mars, Earth, and other planetary bodies. More information can be found at our group website here: https://www.jsg.utexas.edu/goudge/.

Research areas for potential student projects include: comparative studies of surface processes across planetary bodies; use of topography (e.g., LiDAR and/or stereo-derived digital elevation models from drones) to characterize ancient and modern sedimentary environments on Earth; mineralogy and stratigraphy of the sedimentary rock record on Mars; and field studies to ground-truth remote sensing observations of Earth analog sites. Available funding is not tied to any one project, so students also have the option to propose and develop their own projects in the broad theme of planetary surface processes.

Dr. Goudge is strongly committed to building an inclusive research group with members that have a diverse set of perspectives and backgrounds. Applicants from historically underrepresented groups in STEM fields, with non-traditional backgrounds, and/or with a demonstrated interest in efforts to improve inclusion and diversity in STEM are especially encouraged to apply. Students of the Planetary Surface Processes Group are housed in the E. P. Schoch building, which has a power assisted door for accessibility.

The Planetary Surface Processes Group has our home in the Department of Geological Sciences within the Jackson School of Geosciences at The University of Texas at Austin. The Jackson School of Geosciences is home to over 50 faculty, 90 research scientists, and 200 graduate students. It is consistently ranked as one of the top graduate schools for geology, and has researchers working on a broad range of geoscience problems, including planetary science and surface processes. Austin, the capitol of Texas, is a city of nearly 1 million people, and has a wide array of attractions, including excellent music, food, and outdoor activities.

Interested students are encouraged to apply and get in touch with Dr. Goudge at tgoudge<at>jsg.utexas.edu. More information about the application process for graduate studies at the Jackson School can be found here: http://www.jsg.utexas.edu/education/graduate/admissions/. Applications are due by January 1, 2020, although applicants are encouraged to apply prior to December 1, 2019 to be considered for school-wide fellowship support.

[Many thanks to Professor Sarah Hörst, Johns Hopkins University, for helpful tips on writing a more inclusive advertisement]