

PhD Position in “Cloud Formation in exoplanetary atmospheres”

As part of its Young Researcher Programme YRP@Graz, the [Space Research Institute](#) (IWF) of the [Austrian Academy of Sciences](#) (OeAW) and the [Graz University of Technology](#) jointly invite applications for a PhD position.

This project aims to understand cloud formation in exoplanets and specifically the formation of molecular cluster as pre-cursors of cloud formation in the diversity of exoplanets. The project explores advanced neural network architectures, particularly Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) and generative models, to predict thermo-chemical properties of large molecular clusters. These data will be applied to support physical data interpretation of observations with CHEOPS, JWST, and other space missions, like PLATO, in the future.

The application process has two stages: Stage 1 is anonymised (**application deadline: October 10th 2025**), stage 2 takes the form of an interview.

We seek excellent candidates with a strong background in natural sciences. Successful candidates must hold a Master’s degree in physics, astrophysics or equivalent at the latest by the starting date of the position but preferably at the time of application. The appointment can begin January 01st, 2026, and will aim for 3.5 years.

More details:

<https://www.oeaw.ac.at/en/iwf/research/young-researcher-program/phd-students>

We are looking forward hearing from you!