PhD position in Isotope Geochemistry / Geochronology

The Institute of Geology at the University of Bern, Switzerland, invites applications for a PhD-project on:

"40K-40Ca, 40K-40Ar and 87Rb-87Sr decay constant intercalibration and the 40K branching ratio"

The position is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. The objective of the project is to obtain a high precision decay constant for the decay of 40K and the associated branching ratio. The study will involve the comparison of K-Ar and K-Ca ages of well characterized samples with age information from the same material that has been dated with other decay schemes. The project will include the use of thermal ionization, multicollector-ICP and noble gas mass spectrometers.

Qualifications:
We are looking for a highly motivated candidate with a MSc in Earth Sciences, physics, chemistry or a related field, with a background in isotope geochemistry or analytical chemistry. Good oral and written skills in English are required.

Terms of employment:
The PhD position is funded for 3 years. The candidate will work in a team that uses different stable and radiogenic isotope systems to address important questions in geochemistry ranging from Earth surface processes to mantle dynamics and the origin of meteorites.

Further details:
For further information on the isotope laboratory and the Institute of Geology at the University of Bern please visit our website.

Application:
Applications should include a cover letter with as statement of research interests, a CV, as well as names and addresses of two referees. Please send application to:

Igor M. Villa / Klaus Mezger
Institut für Geologie
Universität Bern
Baltzerstrasse 3
3012 Bern Switzerland
or submit by e-mail to: igor@geo.unibe.ch

Applications are accepted until the position is filled, but we prefer to receive applications **before October 30, 2010**.