PhD Position in Carbonate Sedimentology

The Department of Earth Sciences, University of Geneva, Switzerland, invites applications for a fully funded PhD position with research on Pennsylvanian coral reefs in Southern China.

Extended coral reefs were recently discovered in Southern China. This discovery is at odd with current knowledge that the Mississippian-Pennsylvanian ("Carboniferous") is a "reefless lag time", following the Frasnian-Famennian extinction event. Considering the importance of these findings for reef evolution, the project aims to constrain the sedimentological and stratigraphic framework of these reefs. Research encompasses lithofacies mapping, petrography, microfacies analysis, and biostratigraphy. The project is funded for a period of 3 years (extendable to 4 years) by the Swiss National Science Foundation.

Applicants should have a Master degree in geology. A solid background in carbonate sedimentology and experience with fieldwork are required. Candidates must be able to communicate fluently in English, and knowledge of French would be an advantage, although is not mandatory.

The application material, including motivation letter, CV, names and addresses of referees (incl. phone number and e-mail address) should be send as one single file by email to Elias Samankassou (geneva14051@earthworks-jobs.com), Department of Earth Sciences, University of Geneva, Switzerland.

The evaluation of applications will start May 15th, 2015 and continue until a suitable candidate has been found. The starting date will depend on the availability of the selected candidate, but not be later than October 1st, 2015.

The University of Geneva, as part of the Earth Science school of the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva, hosts one of the largest groups in sedimentary geology in Switzerland and offers state-of-the-art analytical facilities.