

Planetary Science Research Group (PSRG)

Promotes interdisciplinary PS-related research at Western and sponsors lecture series, both research-focused and public.

Planetary Science Research Forum - a weekly meeting of everyone interested in what is "hot and new" in Planetary Science.

....You're invited!



Why Western?

Located in the north of London ("The Forest City"), Western's campus is widely recognised as one of the most beautiful in Canada.

Western has a proud tradition of outstanding scholarship and research. Our willingness to explore new approaches to problems has resulted in the participating faculty members being awarded three Canada Research Chairs in the fields of Geomicrobiology, Star Formation, and Meteor Physics. With over 20 faculty actively engaged in planetary science, Western is the premier place for planetary research in Canada. Take the opportunity to engage your intellectual curiosity and creativity by participating in Western's cutting edge research.

We offer an attractive environment for graduate study:

- Generous and competitive stipends
- Rich variety of research areas
- Extensive facilities for experimental and computational research
- Attractive financial arrangements for scholarship holders
- Flexible starting dates: January, May or September
- Opportunities for multidisciplinary and collaborative research



Contact Us:

Peter Brown
Director, Planetary Science Program
Department of Physics & Astronomy
Telephone: (519) 661-2111 x86458
Email: pbrown@uwo.ca

Gordon "Oz" Osinski
Deputy Director, Planetary Science Program
Department of Earth Sciences
Telephone: (519) 661-4208
Email: gosinski@uwo.ca

The University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario, N6A 3K7



aquarid.physics.uwo.ca/planetsci/

Graduate Programs in Planetary Science



Western's award winning faculty members, cutting edge research and interdisciplinary environment give you the tools to engage your imagination and follow your dreams.



The University of Western Ontario

What is Planetary Science?

Planetary science is an exciting multidisciplinary field concerned with understanding the origin and evolution of planetary systems and of life.

There are six broad areas of study:

Planetary Atmospheres - Examining the thin veneer of gases which surround most planet-sized bodies and interpreting gas dynamics and chemistry.

Planetary Surfaces - Studying the features visible on planetary bodies and the underlying physical processes which produce them through comparative planetology.

Planetary Interiors - Inferring the internal structure of planetary bodies and unraveling the history of their formation and subsequent evolution.

Cosmochemistry - Probing planetary materials in the laboratory (usually in the form of meteorites, but also including returned specimens such as lunar samples and materials from Earth) as a means to develop a more detailed, quantitative understanding of solar system history.

Astrobiology - Investigating the origin, evolution, distribution and future of life on Earth and elsewhere in the Universe.

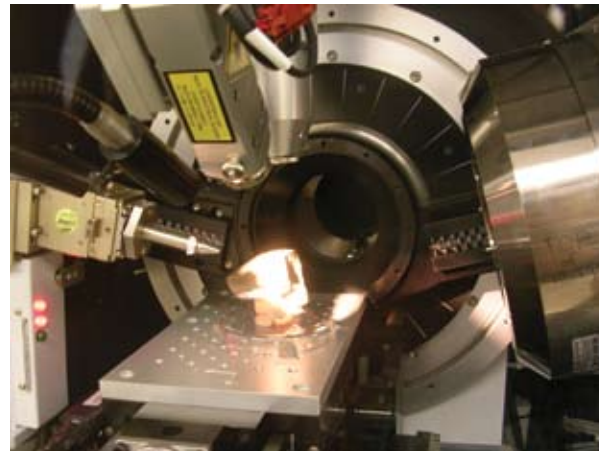
Planetary Dynamics/Astronomy - Understanding the dynamical interaction of planets and small bodies and the observational characterization of these bodies.

Degree Designations

Planetary Science at Western is a multidisciplinary program that is mainly based in the home Graduate Programs of Earth Sciences and Physics & Astronomy. To gain entry to the Planetary Science Graduate Program, the candidate must meet the entry requirements of one of the host Programs.

M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Planetary Sciences awarded by Western are distinguished by the discipline of the candidate's host Program, i.e.: Ph.D. in Planetary Sciences (Geophysics).

The Planetary Science program will welcome applications from all potential students, but those with a demonstrated interest in Planetary Science as indicated by prior course work or research will be given preferential consideration by the Planetary Science Program Committee. In all cases the normal admission criteria appropriate to each home department program will apply.



Primary Features of the Program

The Planetary Science Graduate Program at Western has four specific attributes:

1) Emphasis on original student research: Faculty members must have active research programs with funds sufficient to support their students' research.

2) Emphasis on small group discussion of past and current literature and ongoing research in Planetary Science: this is accomplished through participation in weekly graduate seminar classes, the Planetary Science Research Forum, and attendance at lectures by outside experts in planetary science as part of the ongoing planetary science lecture series that is sponsored by the Planetary Science Research Group.

3) Emphasis on an multidisciplinary approach: Each student will benefit, through courses, Research Forum, and exposure to planetary science speakers and faculty members having expertise outside their immediate area of study (e.g., on their advisory committee). They will develop a well-rounded multidisciplinary view of the field to place in context the specialized area in which they choose to perform their research through their home department.

4) Emphasis on hands-on research and fieldwork: Students will gain invaluable hands-on experience in various field settings; from conducting fieldwork at Mars analogue sites in the Arctic to collecting astronomical data in Hawai'i.

Western's Collaborative Graduate Planetary Science program

Western's is the first Graduate level Planetary Science Program in Canada encompassing aspects of Earth Sciences, Physics, Astronomy, Geography, Chemistry, Biology and many other allied subject areas.

Several planetary science graduate courses are offered:

Astrobiology
Atmospheric Physics
Impact cratering in the Solar System
Mars : From its interior to its Moons
Planetary image interpretation
Solar System and planetary astronomy
Water in the Solar System

