The CLEVER Planets team and Department of Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences at Rice University are seeking applicants for a fully funded Ph.D. position starting Fall 2019 or earlier.

We are looking for highly motivated applicants with undergraduate or master’s degrees in Earth and planetary sciences, physics, engineering, applied math, or a related field. Prospective students should be interested in atmospheric/climate sciences and geophysics, and developing computer models to study the evolution of the terrestrial planets within our solar system and the exoplanets. The topics of interest are related to coupled thermo-chemical evolution of magma oceans and atmosphere. The ideal student has strong quantitative skills, is proficient in programming (MATLAB, Python, FORTRAN, C++ or a similar language), and has experience with numerical analysis. A background in physical-chemical solid Earth and planetary processes affecting formation and evolution of rocky bodies in the Solar System and beyond is also desirable.

Applications for Fall 2019 are due January 9, 2019. Send your questions to Prof. Pedram Hassanzadeh (pedram@rice.edu) and/or Prof. Rajdeep Dasgupta (Rajdeep.Dasgupta@rice.edu).

To apply, please visit –
https://earthscience.rice.edu/academics/apply-to-graduate-program/

The CLEVER Planets (http://cleverplanets.org/) consists of an interdisciplinary, multi-institutional group of scientists, led by Prof. Rajdeep Dasgupta, working to unravel the conditions of planetary habitability in the Solar System and other exoplanetary systems. The overarching theme of our research is to investigate the origin and cycles of life-essential elements in young rocky planets. Based on our understanding of our own solar system and habitable planet Earth, we plan to identify where habitable niches are most likely to occur, which planets are most likely to be habitable and when in their evolutionary history such conditions of habitability are most likely. We are supported by NASA and are one of teams in the Nexus of Exoplanetary Systems Science (NExSS) research coordination network under astrobiology.