The Excellence Cluster ‘ORIGINS: From the origins of the Universe to the first building blocks of life’ (www.origins-cluster.de) started January 2019 and is funded within the framework of the Excellence Strategy of the German Research Foundation (DFG). The interdisciplinary research project is a cooperation of the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) and the Technische Universität München (TUM) as well as the Max Planck Institutes for Astrophysics (MPA), Extraterrestrial Physics (MPE), Physics (MPP), Plasma Physics (IPP) and Biochemistry (MPIB), the European Southern Observatory (ESO) and the Leibniz supercomputing center (LRZ). The Excellence Cluster Origins will study the evolution of the cosmos – from the inception of the Universe to the first building blocks of life in an interdisciplinary manner combining astro-, particle and biophysics. We aim at showing that life is a natural consequence of the evolution of the Universe – and thus is understood based on the fundamental laws of physics and chemistry and the initial conditions created by the Big Bang.

The advancement of women in the sciences, especially in all areas of physics, is integral to the policy of the Excellence Cluster Origins. As part of our ORIGINS VERA RUBIN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM we are looking for a recent (within 5 years of receipt of their PhD), highly qualified, female PhD graduate. The Vera Rubin fellow will have the opportunity to work independently and potentially pursue an interdisciplinary research program in any research area of the Origins Cluster (theoretical or experimental). Fellowship appointments will be for a 3-year term and come with a travel budget of EUR 5,000/year.

We offer a full time position at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität starting at the earliest possible date. Salary and benefits are commensurate with the pay scale of public service organizations (TV-L E14). Disabled persons will be given preference to other equally qualified applicants.

Application: Candidates should send a cover letter, a complete curriculum vitae including a list of publications, a brief statement of research accomplishments and a future research plan for the full 3-year appointment, and arrange for 3 letters of recommendation to be sent to job@origins-cluster.de. The application deadline is November 15, 2019. More information about the ORIGINS Excellence Cluster can be found on the webpage: https://www.origins-cluster.de.

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