

# The Lise Meitner Professorship

## **What is the Lise Meitner Professorship?**

The aim of the Lise Meitner professorship is to offer a distinguished female researcher the opportunity to work at LTH for a period of 6 months to a year, and to be a role model for other women at LTH. The professorship was created in January 1999.

## **Who is eligible?**

The proposed candidate must be employed at an organisation outside Lund University, and have qualifications equivalent to a senior lecturer. It is important that she has the qualities required to take an active part in teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, as well as the other activities within the host department. It is also desirable that she take part in lectures and seminars at both the host department and other departments within LTH, and in other activities arranged by LTH, both internal and external. The position can be awarded for 6-12 months.

## **Who was Lise Meitner?**

Lise Meitner was born in Vienna, Austria in 1878, and studied at the universities of Vienna and Berlin. She, together with the German chemist, Otto Hahn, discovered nuclear fission, and the element protactinium in 1918. She was professor at Berlin University from 1926 to 1933.

Lise Meitner was of Jewish extraction, and in 1938 she was forced to flee the Nazi regime in Germany with only a few personal possessions, together with her long experience in research as head of the Department of Physics at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Berlin. She found a safe haven in Stockholm, where she began working with other atomic physicists at Stockholm University. Her first article on nuclear fission was published in 1939. She is also known for her research on atomic theory and radioactivity, and predicted the existence of the chain reaction that contributed to the development of the atom bomb. In 1946 she was visiting professor at the Catholic University in Washington DC, and she returned to the USA in 1959 as a lecturer at Bryn Mawr College. She became a Swedish citizen in 1949.

In 1966, she shared the Enrico Fermi Prize with Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassman for work that led to the discovery of fission of uranium. She died in Cambridge, England in 1968.

Departments at LTH are invited to submit proposals for the Lise Meitner Professorship for 2009-2011. Proposals must be received by March 15, 2008.

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