

Professor Briony Horgan is a planetary scientist who uses data from NASA satellites and rovers, along with lab and field work back on Earth, to understand the surface processes that have shaped Mars and the Moon.



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Planetary scientists study **planets**, moons, **asteroids**, **comets**, and other celestial bodies, focusing on their composition and formation. Day-to-day responsibilities include:

- Analyzing data from telescopes, satellites, or planetary missions to study planetary surfaces, atmospheres, or interiors.
- ☐ Using **spectrometers**, electron microscopes, and other tools to study planetary materials.
- Experimenting with Earth analogs to simulate extraterrestrial conditions.
- Conducting geological studies in Earth locations that resemble extraterrestrial environments, like deserts, volcanic regions, or polar areas.
- Collecting samples from impact craters or volcanic sites to draw parallels with planetary geology.
- Collaborating on **space** missions, such as designing experiments, selecting landing sites, or interpreting mission data.
- Monitoring spacecraft performance and receiving real-time data from planetary missions.
- Working with international teams to design and execute new missions.