Doctoral Training Policy and Evidence Placement

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| **Project:**  |
| **Title:** **PhD student placement support for the delivery of the Woodlands for Wales Strategy within Welsh Government** |
| The Welsh Government Forest Resources Policy team are seeking support with delivery of the Woodlands for Wales Strategy which outlines the vision and targets for Wales’ trees, woodlands and forests. The strategy is built around 4 strategic themes:* Responding to climate change
* Woodlands for people
* A competitive and integrated forest sector
* Environmental quality

The team works closely with colleagues across the Land, Nature and Forestry Division as it moves towards a more joined up approach around land-use management and land-use change.**Purpose of the post**Working within the Forest Resources Policy team we have a PhD student placement opportunity to gather evidence of all current forestry based research being conducted either in Wales or on behalf of Wales; speak to external and internal stakeholders to find out perceived research gaps, fact check these gaps and prioritise areas of research interest. This work is will directly feed into a strategic research document to provide a framework of future research into forestry in Wales and how it can be commissioned. **Key Tasks**The exact tasks required of the students will likely centre around the following areas:* Stakeholder engagement – facilitating discussion and collecting opinions – key stakeholders include Government Ministers and senior officials; local authorities; health boards; waste managers; universities and university students; school students and more.
* Evidence co-ordination and quality assurance - by working with policy teams and external stakeholders to identify evidence needs and ensuring appropriate methodologies, analysis and findings
* Contributing towards work on the development of a baseline and tracking indicators to support the developing strategy.
* Programme Documentation – by ensuring the availability of relevant programme documents and data management tools
* Desk based research – by using appropriate methods to provide evidence reviews (literature or statistical data) on specific topics

From these areas specific tasks could include: - * Managing and developing the teams evidence database and management information; developing suitable products to reviewing technical literature and research outputs to identify outcomes and impacts for policy, working with communications to develop effective mechanisms to channel key research findings and impacts using the most appropriate format and ensuring that information is shared widely.
* Support on-going research projects, inputting into specification or procurement processes, evaluating tenders and attending projects meetings.
* Provide support for specific data or evidence review for the ongoing projects as necessary – e.g. work with Statistician and Economist leads to analyse data sources, sampling and review findings.
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| **Details**  |
| **Skills required:** | * Strong analytical skills
* Strong data analysis and presentation skills and experience handling/manipulating data
* The ability to produce concise well written documents presenting technical material in an accessible format
* A knowledge of forestry would be desirable but not essential
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| **Anticipated outputs:** | Development of a strategic research document to provide a framework of future research into forestry in Wales and how it can be commissioned. |
| **Host organisation:**  | Welsh Government |
| **Duration:**  | 3-month period, although longer placements would be considered. Start date as soon as possible (following successful Welsh Government security clearance) |
| **Location and working environment:**  | The role will be full-time and, in view of current Covid-19 restrictions, home based.  |
| **Funding** |
| Welsh Government will fund the placement |
| **Contact**  |
| **Name:**  | Caroline Fallone |
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| **Application process**  |
| Please submit CV and covering letter. A full job specification is available. |