Doctoral Training Policy and Evidence Placement

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| **Project:** | |
| **Title:**  **PhD student placement opportunity: Supporting Wales on its journey towards becoming a Zero Waste Nation by 2050** | |
| The Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy division of Welsh Government is seeking a PhD student for a placement opportunity within its team. The team is responsible for supporting Wales on its journey towards becoming a zero waste nation by 2050, leading on a range of activities including Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy policy, infrastructure, legislation and regulation. The team works cross-departmentally, focussing on the contribution towards a more circular economy can make to meet wider Welsh Government aims including our low carbon plans and models of economic development.  **Purpose of the post**  An extensive consultation on the move towards a more circular economy in Wales was launched shortly before Christmas. Close to 40 events were held across Wales with a variety of stakeholder groups with different perspectives. Around 1,000 individuals were engaged. This work strongly supports a current focus on the recovery from the pandemic. Work will include a focus on this recovery.  The responses to the consultation are currently being analysed – and these will shape the development of the Circular Economy strategy by the end of this year. Students will work within the Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy team and will provide direct support to the development of the strategy.  Working within the Circular Economy team the overarching purpose of the placement is to: provide support in delivering the Welsh Government-wide engagement during an internal consultation period; analysing evidence and working with a wide variety of stakeholders on a range of issues pertinent to the development of a revised strategy; providing analytical support and technical input to assist policy makers. The consultation document published in December provided a framework for discussion, this period will be gathering evidence from across Wales and within the Welsh Government itself to inform the strategy. The strategy will set out the next ten years in the pursuit of a zero waste and low carbon Wales.  **Key Tasks**  The exact tasks required of the students will be dependent on the particular focus of the team at the time of the placement but will likely centre around the following areas:   1. Circular Economy policy development  * 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. Whilst the formal consultation has ended, detailed discussions will now take place * Evidence co-ordination and quality assurance - by working with policy teams to identify evidence needs and ensuring appropriate methodologies, analysis and findings are developed * Analysis and modelling – by using a range of data to explain complex relationships (for example exploring the complex supply chain arrangements in place) * 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  1. Recovery planning  * The pandemic has shone a light on how complex and long many of our supply chains are. We have had situations with an excess of milk. The supply chain arrangements are fragile and vulnerable. Local communities have responded with creative solutions – independent shops offering delivery services; communities sharing surplus food amongst the needy. * What can we learn from these experiences and can we improve the resilience of our supply chains and communities?   From these areas specific tasks could include: -   * Analysis of social data, specifically around behaviours to identify implications, opportunities and risks (to support an integrated impact assessment of the developing strategy); providing the synthesis of evidence and producing concise reports/evidence updates. * 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. | |
| **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 |
| **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** | |
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| **Application process** | |
| Please submit CV and covering letter. A full job specification is available. | |