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**Student Placement with Welsh Government**

The Welsh Government is developing a new Wales Transport Strategy as one of the Minister for Economy and Transport’s top priorities for the remainder of the Assembly term. The Strategy will set out a long-term vision for transport, over 25 years, with the outcomes we want to achieve and the performance indicators we will use to measure those outcomes.

The purpose of the Strategy is to fulfil our duty to develop policies for the promotion and encouragement of safe, integrated, sustainable, efficient and economic transport facilities and services.

The Strategy will also set out how we propose to carry out those and acts as a wider signal to the public, businesses, our intent and crucially our requirements of other public sector bodies and delivery bodies in relation to the longer term development of transport associated infrastructure across Wales.

Production of a Strategy is a statutory duty under the Transport (Wales) Act.

Our goal is for people of all ages and abilities to be confident that they can make every day journeys by walking and cycling, or by public transport, and do so safely. But there are barriers in our villages, towns and cities to allow this to easily happen and this is something we must look at ways of addressing – not least as part of our wider response to the climate emergency, the air quality crisis and the obesity epidemic.

This requires a change in our thinking and in our doing – addressing the issues we know are turning people away from active travel and public transport, making it as attractive as possible for everyone.

Our key policy challenges include:

* The Climate Change emergency – the commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions to almost zero, decarbonisation, air quality and technological changes such as electric and autonomous vehicles.
* The need to develop a multi-term legislative programme which provides a suitable framework to deliver our policies and ambitious plans, recognising the devolution of additional functions.
* Enhancing connectivity within Wales, the rest of the UK and beyond.
* Redesigning the way we invest in transport so that we can leverage better returns in the pursuit of a more equal, greener and prosperous Wales.
* Achieving behaviour change to travel by more sustainable means, following the Sustainable Travel Hierarchy.

**Purpose of the post**

The role of the post holder would be to provide support in delivering the strategy, including support on delivering the consultation and engagement, providing analytical support and technical input to assist policy makers, and on specific elements of the work, such as on Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and guidance to local authorities in relation to Joint Local Transport Plans. The work will include cross government and external working as well as involvement at Ministerial Boards.

The intention is to host a placement for a 3-month period, although longer placements would be considered.

**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:

* 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, understanding how transport interventions can support wider objectives and how other policy areas need to build in consideration of transport implications of their policies and programmes into their decision-making processes.
* Evidence co-ordination and quality assurance - by working with policy teams 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.
* Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and five ways of working.

**Location and pattern of working**

The role will be full-time and based within the Cathays Park (Cardiff) offices of Welsh Government. The student will have the opportunity to sit with the Transport Policy and Planning division and and engage with both policy lead and a range of internal and external stakeholders, including Ministers.

**Student Specification**

The students must have:

* 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

**Development Opportunities**

The successful candidates will join the Transport division at a critical point as we develop our new Wales Transport Strategy. This is an area of high public and political profile.

These placements offer experience of working in an interesting and diverse team, focusing on high profile areas of work with often challenging deadlines. With support from their WG supervisors, the students will be expected to take responsibility for managing and delivery of work commitments, providing opportunity to develop team working and project management skills.

Working closely with a wide range of colleagues the students will build valuable working relationships, broaden their knowledge and understanding of Welsh Government policy work and have the opportunity to identify areas to add value to the delivery of evidence-based policy. There will also be the potential opportunity to meet Minsters and a wide range of industry stakeholders.