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| **Project:**  |
| **Title: PhD student placement opportunity – Chemicals Prioritisation** |
| The Air Quality, Noise and Chemicals team within Welsh Government (WG) is seeking a PhD student for a placement within its team. Chemicals policy is a cross-cutting policy area and the Chemicals Policy and Regulations team is responsible for managing the regulation of chemicals that falls within devolved competence, and ensuring UK/GB chemicals policy supports Welsh Government policies. Safe management of chemicals is essential to protect human health and the environment. As we are nearing the end of the Transition Period, the functions previously carried out by the EU will be coming back to the UK/GB. This is an exciting opportunity to help shape the future of chemicals regulations in the UK. **Details of the Post**The largest piece of legislation governing chemicals in the EU is REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals). When the Transition Period ends, the UK/GB will be operating its own version of REACH (UK/GB REACH). Welsh Government is running a project to assess the pipeline of work coming through the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), to look at available evidence in relation to the chemicals currently being considered for regulatory action and to produce a report on the chemicals of most interest to Wales.Areas post holders will work on include: * Analysis of EU REACH to inform Welsh Government positions on UK REACH.
* Monitoring the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)’s list of substances being considered for regulatory action under EU REACH.
* Researching available evidence in relation to the chemicals currently being considered for regulatory action under EU REACH by ECHA and/or the European Commission. Links are available to some ECHA reports but these will need to be supplemented by some independent research.
* There may be the possibility of attending virtual meetings to discuss the upcoming programme of work with the Health and Safety Executive, the Environment Agency, Defra, Scottish Government and Northern Ireland colleagues.
* Assessing advice provided to Welsh Government on chemicals to ensure robustness.
* Producing a report to inform the Welsh Government’s position on priority chemicals for UK/GB REACH
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| **Details**  |
| **Skills required:** | **Essential Skills*** Knowledge of chemistry or other relevant scientific background and the ability to read and interpret scientific reports.
* An interest in chemicals and their uses.
* An interest in the impacts certain chemicals have on human health and the environment.
* Strong critical thinking and analytical skills.
* Strong research skills.
* Ability to work at pace, delivering against tight deadlines.

**Desirable Skills*** Prior knowledge of EU REACH.
* Awareness of wider Welsh Government policies such as Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) and Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) policy.
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| **Outputs:** | As agreed with line manager and in relation to the above priorities |
| **Host organisation:**  | Welsh Government |
| **Development opportunities** | Post holders will benefit from a range of development opportunities including supporting Ministers and Senior Officials, working at pace within a high profile policy area and engaging with a wide range of stakeholders and departments across Welsh Government. 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 represent Welsh Government in wider policies for the UK and internationally. With support from their Welsh Government supervisors, the post holders will be expected to take responsibility for managing and delivery of work commitments, providing opportunity to develop research skills, team working and project management skills. |
| **Duration, location, working arrangements and environment:**  | The role will be full-time and is normally based with the policy team in one of Welsh Government’s regional offices. In view of current Covid-19 restrictions, the post-holder will be required to work from home in-line with working arrangements for all Welsh Government employees and it is unlikely that this will change for the foreseeable future. Post-holders will be provided with a laptop to facilitate regular contact with the policy team members and line management, other policy teams and external partners. Due to the remote nature of working, the policy team will ensure that the post-holder is fully supported during the placement and endeavour to ensure that the placement is as close to the in-team office-based experience as possible.The placement will be for a 3 month period and will focus on delivering the objectives set out in the job specification. The option to extend for a further 3 months is possible if the project team feel there is merit in doing so and if it is compatible with the post-holder’s university research schedule and DTP/CDT arrangements. **All applicants must seek approval from the academic supervisor and/or DTP/CDT before applying.**The Welsh Government is a bilingual organisation and Welsh language skills are considered an asset to the organisation. We encourage and support staff to use their Welsh language skills during a placement. We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh.  Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding. Start date will be agreed following successful security vetting in accordance with Welsh Government Civil Service procedures, details of which will be provided on receipt of a placement offer |
| **Funding** |
| The placement will be funded by Welsh Government and will match the current UKRI PhD stipend rate, payable in one sum at the beginning of the placement (to minimise financial administration). The payment process aims to compliment PhD student university stipend payment structures, i.e. WG pay the university and the funds are passed-on to the student’s account. **Please note:  we do not pay students directly.** |
| **Contact**  |
| **Name:**  | Caroline Fallone ( Caroline.Fallone@gov.wales ) / Tel: 07967 303629 |
| **Application process**  |
| **Please submit CV and covering letter and indicate the earliest and latest dates you can take-up a 3 month placement****All applicants must seek approval from the academic supervisor and/or DTP/CDT before applying**If you have an impairment or health condition, or use British Sign Language and need to discuss reasonable adjustments for any part of the placement programme, or wish to discuss how we will support you if you are to be successful, please contact caroline.fallone@gov.wales as soon as possible to discuss your requirements and any questions you may have. |