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| **Project:** | |
| **Title: PhD student placement opportunity –** *“The impact of COVID-19 on Welsh Greenhouse Gas Emissions”* | |
| The Decarbonisation Policy Team in Welsh Government is seeking a PhD student for a placement opportunity.  The Decarbonisation Policy Team is responsible for managing the implementation of the climate change aspects of the Environment (Wales) Act. This legislation puts in place a Welsh greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of at least an 80% reduction in the year 2050, however we have accepted the CCC’s recommendation to increase Wales’ 2050 target to 95% and have declared an ambition to go beyond 95%. The Environment (Wales) Act also introduces a statutory regime with interim targets and five-yearly carbon budgeting, which provide a robust governance framework that will allow the Welsh Government to provide greater clarity around decarbonisation policy, which in turn will help drive investment for a low-carbon economy.  This is a high-profile agenda, which is often in the media and public spotlight due to its global significance. This placement offers the chance to work in a high priority, challenging and rewarding area and the opportunity to contribute to the Welsh Government's approach to decarbonisation, which will impact all aspects of our economy and society going forward and has the potential to translate into real action to improve prosperity and tackle inequality in Wales.  **Purpose of the Post**  The student will join the analytical branch of the Decarbonisation Policy Team responsible for the delivery of the appropriate evidence and reporting to inform the development and implementation of the Environment (Wales) Act. The student will work in collaboration with internal colleagues, wider Welsh Government departments, and external partners to develop the supporting evidence base and provide technical assistance, and data analysis to the decarbonisation programme.  The intention is to host a placement for a 3-month period, although longer placements would be considered.  The particular focus of this placement would be to carry out analysis into the changes in Wales’ greenhouse gas emissions as a result of restrictions imposed to tackle the coronavirus pandemic. The analysis will take the form of an extended literature review, culminating in the production of a short government report for internal use.  **Key Tasks**   * Undertaking a review of existing literature on methodologies for assessing the impact of COVID-19 on greenhouse gas emissions in Wales, as well as elsewhere in the UK and internationally * Assessing the data requirements of different methodologies and comparing and contrasting this with the currently available data for Wales * Working with colleagues across Welsh Government to identify synergies and requirements for this analysis, linking to the wider government agenda to implement a green recovery from COVID-19. * If possible, calculate an estimate of the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on Welsh GHG emissions and/or make recommendations for an appropriate way forward to assess the effects of the pandemic   The exact tasks required of the student will be dependent on the particular focus of the team at the time of the placement and the student will likely have the opportunity to become involved in other work areas where they have a specific interest | |
| **Details** | |
| **Skills required:** | **Key Skills**  Essential skills:   * Experience in planning and carrying out an extended literature review and an excellent ability to summarise and synthesise information from a range of sources * Strong written and verbal communication skills, and the ability to produce concise well-written documents presenting technical material in an accessible format * Good data analysis skills and experience handling/manipulating data   Desirable skills:   * Some knowledge of current climate change/decarbonisation policy, desirable but not essential |
| **Outputs:** | As agreed with line manager and in relation to the above priorities |
| **Host Organisation:** | Welsh Government |
| **Placement Start Date** | February 2021 |
| **Development Opportunities** | The placement provides an opportunity to gain insight into the functioning of Welsh Government and evidence-based policy development at the highest level. The post-holder will work in an interesting and diverse team, contributing to the shaping of a future policy direction. The post-holder will be expected to work independently within parameters and guidelines provided by the Welsh Government. Working closely with a wide range of colleagues the successful candidate will build valuable working relationships, broaden their knowledge of public policy-making and enhance their existing transferable skills.  The student will join an analytical team managing a diverse evidence-base and delivering technical and advisory support across the Decarbonisation programme. This is an interesting and diverse role, working on a high-profile programme across Welsh Government portfolios which will allow the student to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of Welsh Government policy work. With support from their WG supervisor, the student will be expected to take responsibility for managing and delivery of work commitments during the placement period. |
| **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 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.  Start date will be agreed following successful Welsh Government security clearance. |
| **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** | |
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| **Application process** | |
| **Please submit CV and covering letter. All applicants must seek approval from the academic supervisor 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](mailto:caroline.fallone@gov.wales) as soon as possible to discuss your requirements and any questions you may have. | |