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| **Project:**  |
| **Title: PhD student placement opportunity –** “Supporting Welsh Government’s National Forest Team” |
| The Forest Resources Policy branch within Welsh Government is seeking a PhD student for a placement opportunity to support the delivery of key Wales’ policies. The team supports the development of the First Minister’s National Forest commitment and the delivery of the [Woodlands for Wales Strategy](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-06/woodlands-for-wales-strategy_0.pdf) which outlines WG’s 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 other areas within the Land, Nature and Forestry Division, e.g. Biodiversity and Plant Health, as we move towards a more joined up approach to land-use management and land-use change.The team is currently in the process of developing a long-term strategy for the establishment of a National Forest for Wales, increasing the rate of woodland creation and improving management of existing woodland, and leading on forestry research on behalf of the UK administrations amongst other key activities.**Key Tasks****National Forest Programme**Climate change is causing an increase in environmental challenges which currently face our trees, forests and woodlands. Increased pests and diseases, decarbonisation, water management, air quality and conserving our woodland resource for future generations are all important factors which are driving the need for an increase in woodland creation and the development of resilient woodlands which are being sustainably managed.Welsh Ministers have committed to planting 2000ha of new woodlands a year, increasing the planting rate to 4000ha as soon as possible. In order to achieve these targets and maximise woodland benefits, a number of programmes are focused on delivering these key policies. Welsh Government is currently delivering the National Forest Programme. It is one of the First Minister’s manifesto commitments and as such receives high attention from both Minister’s, stakeholders and the public.Key outcomes of the National Forest:

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| * Good quality, well designed and managed resilient woodlands
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| * Woodlands accessible to people
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| * Community involvement in woodlands
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| * Connected Woodlands
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| * Dynamic, multi-purpose woodlands and trees
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| * Woodlands that demonstrate learning, research and innovation
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The successful applicant will have the opportunity to work on a variety of different projects within the National Forest Programme and these are subject to change depending on priorities and resource. Currently there are two work streams which need to be addressed:**Developing Impact Assessments** An essential part of building a comprehensive and balanced case for a policy is appraising the impact it is likely to have – both positive and negative. Welsh Government are required to complete Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA) when developing any policies. Considerations must be made to Culture and Welsh Language, Economic, Environmental and Social impact assessments as necessary when completing the IIA.The National Forest Programme delivers a variety of different outputs and outcomes through a number of different mechanisms. It is critical Welsh Government are able to assess all the impacts of the Programme in order to produce, evaluate and delivery a transparent and accountable policy. This important piece of work will not only shape the Programme over the next 12 months but will provide a foundation for the lifespan of the Programme.**Supporting the consultation process**The National Forest Programme is committed to work collaboratively with stakeholders. A lot of the information regarding the delivery and opportunities of woodland forming the National Forest lies with our stakeholders. We need to continuously work with our stakeholders, building relationships and disseminating information. It is key to the success of this programme Welsh government co-ordinate feedback and information provided by the stakeholders, highlight opportunities for collaboration to deliver the specific outcomes of the National Forest. |
| **Details**  |
| **Skills required:** | **Key Skills**Excellent research skills; Ability to analyse complex information and data; Ability to write clearly and concisely; Ability of presenting technical material in an accessible format; Presentation skills; Creative thinking; Ability to apply an innovative approach |
| **Outputs:** | As agreed with line manager and in relation to the above priorities |
| **Host Organisation:**  | Welsh Government |
| **Placement Start Date** | ASAP |
| **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 to the policy team’s programmes. 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 will 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. 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. |
| **Application criteria** | **Welsh Government can only accept applications to the PhD student placement programme from registered students**. **All applicants must seek approval from their academic supervisor before applying** |
| **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. To avoid delays to students receiving payments, it is preferable that the student’s PhD stipend is not paused during the placement and that, instead, it continues and that WG reimburse the university for the time the student is not undertaking research. **Please note:  we do not pay students directly** |
| **Contact**  |
| **Name:**  | Caroline Fallone (Research & Academic Engagement Manager)caroline.fallone@gov.walesThe Welsh Government takes the protection of your data seriously. If you contact the Welsh Government then our [**Privacy Notice**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgov.wales%2Fabout%2Fwelsh-government-privacy-notice%2F%3Flang%3Den&data=02%7C01%7CCaroline.Fallone%40gov.wales%7C24ae25ebbd28440c42e308d742b5966d%7Ca2cc36c592804ae78887d06dab89216b%7C0%7C0%7C637051219998434627&sdata=Sg3llOKFBLuxSLlQXQlpg%2Bmxb3dMNeR3Sgjw4Z7HQSY%3D&reserved=0) explains how we use your information and the ways in which we protect your privacy. |
| **Application process**  |
| Please submit CV and covering letter to Caroline Fallone. **NOTE: All applicants must confirm that they have received authorisation to take an interruption of studies from their academic supervisor** 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 respondingIf 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. |