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| **Project:**  |
| **Title: PhD student placement opportunity – Biodiversity Taskforce and International Biodiversity Policy** |
| The Land, Nature and Forestry Division of the Welsh Government is seeking a PhD student for a placement opportunity within its Nature Policy and Environmental Governance policy teams. The teams are responsible for the development of aspects of the Welsh Government’s biodiversity policy including international biodiversity, and, implementation of the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales.**Purpose of the Post**The overarching purpose of the placement is to provide support in researching, identifying evidence and collating data in support of policy option appraisal for a number of current tasks on developing biodiversity policy. This will include the development of papers and other material in an accessible format for internal and external stakeholders on a range of issues including:* Researching and presenting options for delivery of the Biodiversity Taskforce
* Research and co-ordination to support workshops on our international commitments

**Key Tasks** * Desk based research – by using appropriate methods to provide evidence reviews (literature or statistical data) on specific topics
* Evidence co-ordination and quality assurance - by working with policy teams to identify evidence needs and ensuring appropriate methodologies, analysis and findings
* Analysis and modelling – by using a range of data and scenario predictions
* Stakeholder engagement – by developing materials for an external stakeholder task group
* Documentation – accurate recording of data collected and methodologies used

From these areas specific tasks could include: - * Researching evidence to support and prioritise options to increase skills and capacity to mainstream biodiversity through government departments and sectors for the Biodiversity Taskforce.
* Produce papers based on evidence gathered to support a number of workshops and discussions based around our international commitments and Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales.
* To test the feasibility and alignment of the Defra metric for Biodiversity Net Gain with Planning Policy Wales, and explore other metric approaches to deliver a net benefit for biodiversity in Wales.

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*** 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
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| **Outputs:** | As agreed with line manager and in relation to the above priorities |
| **Host Organisation:**  | Welsh Government (Environmental Governance Policy Team) |
| **Placement Start Date** | As soon as possible |
| **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 delivery of a cross-government programme in an area of policy in which, through its legislative framework, Wales leads the UK. 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.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 PhD 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.wales |
| **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** 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. |