

## Doctoral Training Policy and Evidence Placement

<b>Project:</b>	
<b>Title: PhD student placement opportunity – Biodiversity Taskforce and International Biodiversity Policy</b>	
<p>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.</p>	
<b><u>Purpose of the Post</u></b>	
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Researching and presenting options for delivery of the Biodiversity Taskforce</li> <li>- Research and co-ordination to support workshops on our international commitments</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Key Tasks</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Desk based research – by using appropriate methods to provide evidence reviews (literature or statistical data) on specific topics</li> <li>- Systems Mapping/ Analysis and modelling – by using a range of data and scenario predictions</li> <li>- Communications/ Stakeholder engagement – by developing a communications and engagement strategy</li> <li>- Documentation – further development of guidance</li> </ul> <p>From these areas specific tasks could include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Researching evidence to support and prioritise options to increase skills and capacity to mainstream biodiversity through government departments and sectors for the Biodiversity Taskforce.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>	
<b>Details</b>	
<b>Skills required:</b>	<p><b><u>Key Skills</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent research skills</li> <li>• Ability to analyse complex information and data</li> <li>• Ability to write clearly and concisely</li> <li>• Ability of presenting technical material in an accessible format</li> <li>• Presentation skills</li> <li>• Creative thinking</li> <li>• Ability to apply an innovative approach</li> </ul>
<b>Outputs:</b>	As agreed with line manager and in relation to the above priorities
<b>Host Organisation:</b>	Welsh Government
<b>Placement Start Date</b>	ASAP
<b>Development Opportunities</b>	<p>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.</p>

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	<p>The student will join an analytical team managing a diverse evidence-base and delivering technical and advisory support to the FCERM 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.</p>
<p><b>Duration, location, working arrangements and environment:</b></p>	<p>The role will be full-time and would normally have been based within the Cathays Park (Cardiff) or Aberystwyth offices of Welsh Government. The current situation, however, means that all staff in the Division are working at home. The technology we have has allowed an impressive and engaging system of online meetings and these have provided a robust method of communication with the team and wider internal and external partners.</p> <p>Regular team meetings are held and students will be encouraged to join these meetings to develop their understanding of the policy work – and how it interacts with other policy areas.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Start date will be agreed following successful Welsh Government security clearance.</p>
<p><b>Application criteria</b></p>	<p><b>Welsh Government can only accept applications to the PhD student placement programme from registered students.</b></p> <p><b>All applicants must seek approval from their academic supervisor before applying</b></p>
<p><b>Funding</b></p>	
<p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Please note: we do not pay students directly</b></p>	
<p><b>Contact</b></p>	
<p><b>Name:</b></p>	<p>Caroline Fallone (Research &amp; Academic Engagement Manager) via <a href="mailto:ResearchPlacements@gov.wales">ResearchPlacements@gov.wales</a></p>
<p><b>Application process</b></p>	
<p>Please submit CV and covering letter to Caroline Fallone. <b>NOTE: All applicants must confirm that they have received authorisation to take an interruption of studies from their academic supervisor</b></p> <p>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</p>	



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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 [ResearchPlacements@gov.wales](mailto:ResearchPlacements@gov.wales) as soon as possible to discuss your requirements and any questions you may have.