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| **Project:**  |
| **Title: PhD student placement opportunity –** *“Analysing the evidence, issues and impacts of future trading relationships and climate change to support future policy development in post-EU Wales ”* |
| The EU Exit & Strategy Division of Welsh Government is seeking a PhD student for a placement opportunity within its Strategic Analysis team. The team is responsible for the co-ordination of engagement and analysis of evidence with policy leads and stakeholder from across the Energy, Environment and Rural Affairs (EERA) portfolio in relation of the impacts of future trading relationships, climate change and future policy development. The team works cross-departmentally, supporting policy teams to consider and capture the evidence needs, issues and tasks required for the negotiations and future policy direction in a post-EU Wales.**Purpose of the Post**Working within the Strategic Analysis team the overarching purpose of the placement is to provide support in identifying evidence, data collation and work with stakeholders on a range of future issues; provide analytical support and technical input to assist Welsh policy makers, with a primary focus on climate change and the biodiversity crisis implications, risks and opportunities.**Key Tasks** The exact tasks required of the post holder will be dependent on the particular focus of the team at the time of the placement but will likely centre around the following areas:* 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, existing scenario predictions and GIS tools to explain complex relationships
* Stakeholder engagement – facilitating discussion and collecting opinions
* Programme Documentation – by ensuring the availability of relevant programme documents and data management tools
* Desk based research – by using appropriate methods to provide evidence reviews (literature or statistical data) on specific topics

From these areas specific tasks could include: - * Analysis of social data, specifically around behaviours to identify implications, opportunities and risks; providing the synthesis of evidence and producing concise reports/evidence updates.
* Support scenario building and modelling, working with the team to consider evidence/data layering and spatial implications
* Managing the teams evidence database; reviewing technical literature and research outputs to identify outcomes and impacts for policy, working with communications to develop effective mechanisms to channel key research findings and impacts using the most appropriate format and ensuring that information is shared widely.
* Support on-going research projects, inputting into specification or procurement processes, evaluating tenders and attending projects meetings.
* Provide support for specific data or evidence review for the ongoing projects as necessary – e.g. work with Statistician and Economist leads to analyse data sources, sampling and review findings.

The post-holder will likely have the opportunity to become involved in other work areas where they have a specific interest |
| **Details**  |
| **Skills required:** | **Key Skills*** Strong data analysis skills and experience handling/manipulating data
* The ability to produce concise well written documents presenting technical material in an accessible format
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| **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 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 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) via ResearchPlacements@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 ResearchPlacements@gov.wales as soon as possible to discuss your requirements and any questions you may have. |