Doctoral Training Policy and Evidence Placement

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| **Project**  |
| **Title:** Net Benefits for Biodiversity Metric for Wales |
| **Description (250 words max):** The nature emergency is driving the need to halt and rapidly reverse the decline in biodiversity. Development, and other potentially damaging activities, need to leave biodiversity in a measurably better state than before they took place. In England this will be achieved through a mandatory [Biodiversity Net Gain](https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/183/2022/04/BNG-Brochure_Final_Compressed-002.pdf) (BNG) approach and a [Biodiversity Metric v3.1](http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6049804846366720) (the Metric). We want to achieve similar in Wales through a [Net Benefits for Biodiversity (NBB)](https://cieem.net/resource/cieem-briefing-welsh-governments-approach-to-net-benefits-for-biodiversity-and-the-decca-framework/) approach and potentially a metric that reflects our different legislative and policy base and ecological character.The placement will contribute to all or some of the following tasks:1. How do BNG and NBB approaches differ? How do they relate to the [mitigation hierarchy](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S259033221930079X)?
2. If comparable would the Metric be suitable for use in Wales? How well does it consider:
3. The requirements of Welsh legislation and policy, critically the [Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR](https://naturalresources.wales/media/678317/introducing-smnr-booklet-english.pdf)), the [Section 6 biodiversity duty](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/section/6), including the aspects of ecosystem resilience ([Diversity, Extent, Condition, Connectivity and other Aspects](https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/693247/ecosystem-resilience-in-a-nutshell-1-what-is-ecosystem-resilience.pdf)), and the [Natural Resources Policy](https://gov.wales/natural-resources-policy)?
4. The ecological character, needs and priorities of Wales as reflected in e.g. the [State of Natural Resources Report](https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/state-of-natural-resources-report-sonarr-for-wales-2020/?lang=en)? How well are terrestrial, freshwater, marine and species needs reflected?
5. How important are any shortcomings identified? What options might exist to overcome these e.g., adaptions or alternatives and what would be the limitations to such options?

The outcome will be a NBB evidence briefing/ report for use in NRW advice to our customers. Up for a challenge? |
| **Details**  |
| **Skills required:** | Knowledge of biodiversity, legislation and impact assessment. |
| **Anticipated outputs:** | Briefing/report for a metric for Wales to measure NBB including detail of the scope, limitations, evolution options, relevance to legislation, linkages to other administrations e.g. Metric v3.1, users guide |
| **Host organisation:**  | NRW |
| **Duration and format (full time/part time):**  | 3 months, full time |
| **Development opportunities** | The placement provides an opportunity to gain insight into the functioning of Natural Resources Wales and evidenced based decision making within the Welsh environment context. The post-holder will work in an interesting and diverse team, and their contributions to tackling the nature and climate emergencies will be highly valued. The post-holder will be expected to work independently within parameters and guidelines provided by Natural Resources Wales. Working closely with a wide range of colleagues the successful candidate will build valuable working relationships, broaden their knowledge of this sector, and enhance their existing transferable skills. The student will join a team managing a diverse range of programmes and providing technical and advisory support across our Operational and Evidence, Policy, and Permitting directorates. This is a fantastic opportunity to understand how research and evidence is used to inform decisions. With support from their NRW supervisor, the student will be expected to take responsibility for managing and delivery of work commitments during the placement period. |
| **Location and working environment:**  | Flexible working some office / face to face meetings in Wales |
| **Start date:** | ASAP (and at the latest 1st December 2022) |
| **Application criteria**  | Natural Resources Wales (NRW) can only accept applications to the PhD student placement programme from registered students who are within their funded period.All applicants must seek approval from their academic supervisor before applying |
| **Funding** |
| The placement will be funded by NRW and will match the current UKRI PhD stipend rate. The payment process aims to compliment PhD student university stipend payment structures, i.e. NRW 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 NRW reimburse the university for the time the student is not undertaking research. Please note: we do not pay students directly |
| **Contact – for queries** |
| **Name:**  | Sarah Ayling |
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| **Tel:**  | 0791 7072400 |
| **Application process**  | Please submit the equal opportunities form, your CV and a short covering letter by **17th October 2022**, explaining why you are suitable for this placement to Lleoliadau@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk 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 lleoliadau@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk as soon as possible to discuss your requirements and any questions you may have. |