Doctoral Training Policy and Evidence Placement

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| **Project** | |
| **Title:** LIFEDeeRiver – drone mapping and data analysis | |
| **Description (250 words max):** Click or tap here to enter text.  LIFEDeeRiver is a £6.8 million pound EU funded project running until December 2024. The aims of the project are to improve the population of iconic species and habitats found within the river Dee.  The project focuses on physical works to remove barriers, create riparian buffer strips, improve instream habitat diversity, and change land use practises.  This placement would be to assist the project in reporting on outcomes following specific interventions where data collection is being carried out. A full-time senior monitoring officer works on the LIFEDeeRiver project and would work closely with the successful candidate to complete the following tasks:   1. Use of orthophotos or drone surveys to assess areas of Ranunculion habitat and develop methods to assess changes over time (increase/decrease in quantity and quality). 2. Create models to estimate the effectiveness of replacing a forestry ford (a shallow solid crossing across place over a river or stream) with a clear span bridge, in terms of reduction in sediments/nutrients entering the watercourse, and the potential impacts of chemicals from tyres entering the watercourse. 3. Assist with the analysis of Adaptive Resolution Imaging Sonar (ARIS) data used to look at upstream migration of lamprey at Chester weir.   The evidence provided from these pieces of work will feed into the AfterLIFE plan and best practise case studies. | |
| **Details** | |
| **Skills required:** | Data handling and manipulation. Statistical analysis and modelling |
| **Anticipated outputs:** | Reports to be included within later dissemination documents from the project. |
| **Host organisation:** | NRW (LIFEDeeRiver) |
| **Duration and format (full time/part time):** | 3-month full time placement |
| **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. It also gives the opportunity to work alongside the team carrying out the work on the LIFEDeeRiver project and gain valuable experience across all areas (river restoration, land management). It will also give the opportunity to work with other colleagues within NRW.  The researcher will be expected to work independently within parameters and guidelines provided by the project team.  This is a fantastic opportunity to understand how research and evidence is used to inform decisions. With support from their NRW supervisor, the researcher will be expected to take responsibility for managing and delivery of work commitments during the placement period. |
| **Location and working environment:** | Flexible working location, although NE Wales would be beneficial to get out with the team and see the work on the ground. |
| **Start date:** | October/November 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** | |
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| **Application process** | Please submit the equal opportunities form, your CV and a short covering letter, 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. |