|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project:** | |
| **Title: PhD student placement opportunity –** *“**A methodology for the prioritisation of investment in flood risk management across Wales”* | |
| The Water and Flood Division of the Welsh Government is seeking a PhD student for a placement opportunity within its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management programme team. The team‘s remit falls under the portfolio of the Minister for Climate Change which supports delivery objectives identified under primary legislation such as the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015. The team works closely with a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders, in particular the 22 local authorities of Wales and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).  Background  The Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Branch is located within the Water, Flood and Coal Tip Safety Division and has a number of key areas of responsibility. These include the development and implementation of policy in relation to flood and coastal erosion risk management, the development and management of a significant budget delivered through two key programmes to support these policy aims, and the provision of technical advice and expertise on flood and coastal erosion risk.  The Programme team is responsible for the management of an annual budget of around £71m to deliver the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Programme to support schemes across the whole of Wales. Over this Government term we will invest over £300 million to reduce risk to 45,000 properties.  Flood alleviation schemes in Wales are delivered by Risk Management Authorities (RMA’s), in the case of Wales these are the 22 Local Authorities and Natural Resources Wales supported by Welsh Government funding through the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Programme.  Purpose of the Work  To provide transparency and fairness in allocating funding, the Welsh Government FCERM branch has developed a scoring methodology (attached below) for prioritising annual capital investment provided through the FCERM programme.    The current scoring methodology utilises the following information:   * [Communities at Risk Register (CaRR)–](https://lle.gov.wales/catalogue/item/CommunitiesAtRiskRegisterCarr/?lang=en) the index of flood risk from rivers, the sea and surface water * Details of actual flood events – number of events and number of properties impacted * Number of properties benefitting from a proposed scheme * Cost of the scheme per property benefitting * Wider benefits which may be achieved * Potential availability of partnership funding * Cost benefit ratio   Through use of this methodology, it has been identified that the scoring associated with the Communities at Risk Register needs reviewing to consider whether how the different data relating to sources of flooding should be used in one scoring methodology.  We also wish to undertake an informal consultation with RMA’s to gather views and experiences of using the methodology and consider as part of the of the whole of the scoring methodology.  Based on the findings of the review, potential changes to this methodology may be proposed.  The post-holder will:   * Gain an understanding of Welsh Government structure and processes, with a specific focus on flood programme delivery * Utilise large amounts of data to analyse and propose changes for policy officials to consider * Consult on a written or verbal basis on proposals * Provide evidence to support reasoning for scoring within the methodology. * Gain experience working with the public sector in flood risk management   **Key Tasks**   * Through discussion with Local Authorities and Natural Resources Wales, obtain feedback on the current way of prioritising Capital investment through RMA’s. * Analyse the outcomes of the discussions and consider whether any changes might be beneficial. * Analyse the data held within the CaRR (which brings together various elements) to consider the danger and risk from flooding in communities. Following this analysis, consider a new methodology, including that proposed by NRW (the Natural Jenks classification) to identify how CaRR can be used in a fairer way to prioritise investment. * Present revised scoring for prioritising investment using the current scoring system. * With support of WG officials, present a new proposed methodology to the FCERM Programme Board and Risk Management Authorities for consideration and consultation. | |
| **Details** | |
| **Skills required:** | **Key Skills**   * Ability to analyse complex information and data * Ability to utilise written information or verbal feedback to present solutions * Ability of presenting technical material in an accessible format * Communication skills |
| **Outputs:** | A revised methodology for prioritising investment |
| **Host Organisation:** | Welsh Government |
| **Placement Start Date** | January 2023 |
| **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.  The student will join an analytical team managing a diverse evidence-base and delivering technical and advisory support across the policy area. 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 Welsh Government supervisor, the student will be expected to take responsibility for managing and delivering 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 likely be required to work from home, however, office working may be permissible and individual circumstances can be discussed. This is in-line with working arrangements for all Welsh Government employees.  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 this 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; will match the current minimum UKRI PhD stipend rate; will be payable in one sum at the end of the placement; and is in addition to the stipend a student normally receives from their university. 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. **Please note:  we do not pay students directly** | |
| **Contact** | |
| **Name:** | Caroline Fallone (Academic Engagement Manager) via [ResearchPlacements@gov.wales](mailto:ResearchPlacements@gov.wales) |
| **Application process** | |
| Please submit CV and covering letter to the above mailbox. **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 the above mailbox as soon as possible to discuss your requirements and any questions you may have. | |