



## Doctoral Training Policy and Evidence Placement

### Project:

**Title:** PhD student placement opportunity – “Supporting the Interim Environmental Protection Assessor for Wales (IEPAW)”

The Interim Environmental Protection Assessor for Wales (IEPAW) is responsible for reviewing concerns about the functioning of environmental law in Wales. Where warranted, the IEPAW may prepare reports on the functioning of the law for the Welsh Ministers. The IEPAW is part of an interim process in Wales until a permanent body to oversee compliance with environmental law is developed. Its focus is on the functioning of environmental law, not on breaches of that law.

### Purpose of the Post

The post-holder will be responsible for assisting the IEPAW with the production of reports for Welsh Ministers on the functioning of environmental law in Wales. Concerns about the functioning of environmental law fall into three broad categories:

1. The law no longer delivers its intended objectives and outcomes, either because it is outdated or it no longer functions in a way which protects the environment
2. Guidance or information about the law is not accessible. The quality and availability of information or guidance impedes deliverability or operability for users.
3. Practical delivery of the law is impeded. Where there are improvements which could be incorporated as a result of advances in science or technology or where barriers exist which frustrate or prevent practical delivery of law.

### Key Tasks

Key duties will include:

- Analysis of environmental legislation and associated case law, including identifying potential gaps in the existing legal framework
- Undertaking a literature review of relevant issues, including best practice in other countries
- Analysis of complex information and data trends and identifying potential evidence gaps
- Drafting clear, concise summaries of findings that will be used as the basis of reports by the IEPAW to the Welsh Ministers
- Participating in meetings with colleagues, including stakeholders from external organisations.
- Assimilation and coordination of expert evidence received, taking notes of evidence provided in oral evidence sessions, workshops and seminars.

The specific subject matter under consideration will depend upon the environmental concerns received by the IEPAW. Such concerns cover a wide range of issues, including water quality in Welsh rivers, the protection of hedgerows and forestry matters.

### Details

#### Skills required:

#### Key Skills

- Academic background in law, preferably environmental law
- Good legal research, evaluation and analytical skills
- The ability to write accurate and concise documents
- Excellent research skills
- Ability to analyse complex information and data
- Ability of presenting technical material in an accessible format
- Presentation skills
- Creative thinking
- Ability to apply an innovative approach

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<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 evidenced 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> <p>This is an interesting and diverse role, that links to other Welsh Government teams, which will allow the student to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of 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>
<b>Duration, location, working arrangements and environment:</b>	<p>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.</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>
<b>Application criteria</b>	<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>
<b>Funding</b>	
<p>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. <b>Please note: we do not pay students directly</b></p>	
<b>Contact</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	<a href="mailto:ResearchPlacements@gov.wales">ResearchPlacements@gov.wales</a>



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