

Doctoral Training Policy and Evidence Placement

Project:

Title: **PhD student placement opportunity** – *“Supporting the Welsh Government’s work to control Antimicrobial Resistance in Animals and the Environment ”*

The Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO) in the Welsh Government is responsible for raising the standards of health and welfare for all animals kept in Wales – farmed animals, companion animals (pets), sporting and working animals.

The OCVO is seeking a PhD student for a placement within its small antimicrobial resistance (AMR) policy team. The teams remit falls under the portfolio of the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales and the Trefnydd, which supports delivery of the objectives identified in the Welsh Governments Animal and Environment Antimicrobial Resistance in Animals and the Environment, Five Year Implementation [Plan](#), for Wales.

The Implementation Plan was recommended by the Animal and Environment Antimicrobial Resistance [Delivery Group](#). The team also works closely with a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders and representatives of the UK Government and the other Devolved Administrations.

The rise and spread of AMR poses a threat to the ability to control infections in healthcare settings, in the wider community and in animals. The impacts of leaving AMR unchecked are wide-ranging and extremely costly, not only in financial terms but also in terms of global, public and animal health, trade, food security, environmental wellbeing and socioeconomic development.

Purpose of the Post

The role will significantly contribute the development of a new five-year Implementation Plan for Wales, shaping our approach to AMR controls from 2024-2029.

The successful candidate will join the AMR policy team, leading the AMR Delivery Group in reviewing the existing Implementation Plan and in drafting the next five-year Implementation Plan for Wales.

The following objectives, will provide the focus for this specific post –

1. Consider and produce a final summary of the activities and progress delivered under the existing Animal and Environment Implementation Plan for Wales (2019-2024).
2. Lead on drafting a new Implementation Plan for Wales (2024-2029), which is closely aligned with the UK National Action Plan, due to be published early 2024.
3. Present both documents to the Wales AMR Delivery Group, the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group, the CVO Wales and the Minister.
4. Share information with internal and external stakeholders across the UK on the approach being taken in Wales.
5. Support publication and promotion of both documents.

Key Tasks

The role will also include, but is not limited to -

- Collation and review of relevant information sources.
- Engagement with internal and external stakeholders (such as the AMR Delivery Group, Public Health Wales etc.).
- Assistance with drafting and presentation of briefing papers for senior officials, the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales and the Welsh AMR Delivery Group.
- Contributing to development of policy recommendations.
- Publication of key policy documents.

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The student will also have the opportunity to become involved in other work areas where they have a specific interest.

Note that we do not expect the successful applicant to have specific veterinary knowledge, nor knowledge of antibiotic therapeutics – this will be provided by others. The core task is that of drafting and aligning objectives, linked to wider WG and UK wide outcomes.

Details

Skills required:	<p>Key Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to gather evidence and summarise, from a range of sources. • Ability to analyse complex information and data. • Strong written and verbal communication skills and the ability to write clearly and concisely • Ability to organise complex work to meet milestones and delivery targets • Ability to presenting material in a range of accessible formats. • Creative thinking • Good inter-personal skills required to work with a range of Welsh Government officials and stakeholders • An inquiring and learning mindset, to get the most from the placement
Outputs:	<p>As agreed with line manager and in relation to the above priorities. We would expect –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A report summarising activities undertaken to deliver the current (2019-2024) Wales Implementation Plan and, 2. Working directly with the AMR Delivery Group, to draft a Wales Implementation Plan for 2024-29. 3. Both reports should be of a standard suitable for external publication.
Host Organisation:	<p>Welsh Government</p>
Placement Start Date	<p>November 2023</p>
Development Opportunities	<p>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 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>The student will join a team managing a diverse evidence-base and delivering technical and advisory support to the Animal and Environment Antimicrobial Resistance programme. 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.</p> <p>The successful applicant will be responsible for delivery of two important work areas. We would expect the final reports/documents to be of a standard suitable for publication.</p> <p>The post will also offer an opportunity to work with senior colleagues in the Welsh Government, and across the UK, learning about animal and public health protection and wider policy development.</p>

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<p>Duration, location, working arrangements and environment:</p>	<p>The role will be full-time with a mix of home and office working.</p> <p>Post-holders will be provided with a Welsh Government laptop and the policy team will ensure that the post-holder is fully supported during the placement.</p> <p>The placement will be for a 6-month period and will focus on delivering the objectives set out in the job specification.</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>
<p>Application criteria</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Funding</p>	
<p>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</p>	
<p>Contact</p>	
<p>Name:</p>	<p>Stephany Aymerich (Research & Academic Engagement Manager) via ResearchPlacements@gov.wales</p> <p>The Welsh Government takes the protection of your data seriously. If you contact the Welsh Government then our Privacy Notice explains how we use your information and the ways in which we protect your privacy.</p>
<p>Application process</p>	
<p>Please submit CV and covering letter to Stephany Aymerich. NOTE: All applicants must confirm that they have received authorisation to take an interruption of studies from their academic supervisor</p> <p>We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding</p> <p>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 stephany.aymerich@gov.wales as soon as possible to discuss your requirements and any questions you may have.</p>	