

## Doctoral Training Policy and Evidence Placement

### Project: PhD student placement opportunity

**Title:** *Clean Air Evidence: development of national air quality targets for Wales*

#### **Purpose of the Post**

The Air Quality Evidence, Monitoring and Assessment Branch is responsible for developing and implementing evidence-based air quality policy and legislation. Air quality is a high-profile policy area. The Programme for Government and Clean Air Plan for Wales include commitments to introduce a Clean Air Act for Wales and extend the provision of air quality monitoring. The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill, introduced in the Senedd in March 2023, gives effect to these commitments. The Bill includes a new national air quality target setting framework requiring the development of target proposals for a range of pollutants, including for fine particulate matter. New targets will help to drive and measure improvements in air quality, with associated benefits for public health, habitats and biodiversity.

The post holder will work within the team to develop, implement and manage evidence-based policy in relation to new air quality targets. This will involve working with partners to develop multi-pollutant emission reduction measures and modelling the associated benefits to underpin the feasibility analysis of new targets. Alongside this, the post holder will work with the team to commission associated independent expert advice from national expert advisory groups.

The post holder will work extensively with academia, public bodies, non-governmental organisations and across Welsh and UK governments. With support and direction, the post holder will help to build valuable working relationships, broaden their knowledge and understanding of Welsh Government policy work and have the opportunity to identify and develop initiatives to support the effective delivery of evidence-based policy.

The exact tasks required of the student will be dependent on the particular focus of the team at the time of the placement and the student will likely have the opportunity to become involved in other work areas where they have a specific interest.

#### **Details**

<b>Skills required:</b>	<p><b><u>Key Skills</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent research skills</li> <li>• Ability to analyse complex information and data</li> <li>• Ability to write clearly and concisely</li> <li>• Ability of presenting technical material in an accessible format</li> <li>• Presentation skills</li> <li>• Creative thinking</li> <li>• Ability to apply an innovative approach</li> </ul>
<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>	Early 2024
<b>Development Opportunities</b>	<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 an analytical team managing a diverse evidence-base and delivering technical and advisory support to the policy team's programme. This is an interesting and</p>

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	<p>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><b>Duration, location, working arrangements and environment:</b></p>	<p>The role will be full-time and is normally based with the policy team in one of Welsh Government's regional offices. In line with the flexible working policy, the post-holder will be able to work from home, and office working will also be an option.</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>
<p><b>Application criteria</b></p>	<p><b>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</b></p>
<p><b>Funding</b></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). 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. <b>Please note: we do not pay students directly</b></p>	
<p><b>Contact</b></p>	
<p><b>Name:</b></p>	<p>Contact Stephany Aymerich (Research &amp; Academic Engagement Manager) via <a href="mailto:researchplacements@gov.wales">researchplacements@gov.wales</a></p> <p>The Welsh Government takes the protection of your data seriously. If you contact the Welsh Government then our <b>Privacy Notice</b> explains how we use your information and the ways in which we protect your privacy.</p>
<p><b>Application process</b></p>	
<p>Please submit CV and covering letter to Stephany Aymerich. <b>NOTE: All applicants must confirm that they have received authorisation to undertake a placement from their academic supervisor</b></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 as soon as possible to discuss your requirements and any questions you may have.</p>	