

Doctoral Training Policy and Evidence Placement

Project: PhD student placement opportunity

Title: **Single-Use Vapes Impact Analysis Co-ordinator** *'leading to better policy development and implementation for the people of Wales while protecting the environment from plastics and litter.'*

Purpose of the Post

The Environmental Protection Division in the Welsh Government is seeking a PhD student for a placement opportunity within its Local Environment Quality policy team. The teams' remit falls under the portfolio of the Minister for Climate Change and supports objectives under the Environment Act and Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. The team is responsible for delivering a programme of work which focuses on improving the local environment of communities, targeting issues such as single use plastics and reducing litter, fly-tipping, dog fouling and other forms of environmental anti-social behaviour.

The four UK Government's launched a consultation on 12 October setting out proposals for ['Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping'](#). To prevent young people from starting smoking, the proposals include the introduction of a new law to stop children who turn 14 this year or younger from ever legally being sold cigarettes. Proposals are also included to introduce legislation that would restrict the sale and supply of disposable vapes, which are linked to the rise in vaping in children and incredibly harmful to the environment.

This consultation closes on 6 December and work will then begin with the other Governments to collectively analyse the responses to develop our policy position. To help with this policy development and potential introduction of legislation, we are seeking a PhD student placement. The post holder will be required to coordinate and collaborate with several policy teams across both the Welsh Government and the other UK Government Departments to develop the evidence to support our policy position. This will involve analysing and collating evidence to help develop the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA). The RIA is used in the Welsh Government to support all legislative development and is a key tool in delivering better policy and outcomes for the people of Wales.

The post will involve the following key tasks:

- Assess and synthesise available evidence to inform policy development
- Working with policy officials across different Departments to co-ordinate and develop the Welsh Government's position.
- Working with external stakeholders to ensure a consistent and cohesive approach is adopted across the UK
- Develop briefing for Senior Officials and Ministers

The post holder will work extensively with internal and external stakeholders, including other government departments. With support and direction from the Branch, 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.

Details

Skills required:	<p><u>Key Skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent research skills • Excellent planning and organisation skills • Strong critical thinking skills • Data analysis/manipulation and presentation skills • Ability to produce concise, well written documents • Ability to work confidently with a range of stakeholders • Ability to work at pace, delivering against tight deadlines
Outputs:	As agreed with line manager and in relation to the above priorities.
Host Organisation:	Welsh Government

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Placement Start Date	Early 2024
Development Opportunities	<p>The placement provides an opportunity to gain insight into the functioning of Welsh Government and evidence-based policy development and implementation 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 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>
Duration, location, working arrangements and environment:	<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>
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	
<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).</p> <p>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>	
Contact	
Name:	Contact Stephany Aymerich (Research & Academic Engagement Manager) via researchplacements@gov.wales



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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.

Application process

Please submit CV and covering letter to Stephany Aymerich.

NOTE: All applicants must confirm that they have received authorisation to undertake a placement from their academic supervisor

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.

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.