

Project: EPR

Title: PhD student placement opportunity – “Analysing the evidence, issues and impacts of future recycling in Wales ”

The Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy division are seeking a PhD student for a placement opportunity within its Extended Producer Responsibility team. In addition to leading the policy for Extended Producer Responsibility, the division covers recycling, waste tracking, waste regulation, waste infrastructure, repair and re-use and wider circular economy policy.

Purpose of the Post

Wales’ Circular Economy strategy, Beyond Recycling, has set out our ambition to work with the other governments of the UK to develop an Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for plastics, waste electronics and batteries and to bring forward the legislation to support its implementation. The delivery of Extended Producer Responsibility to incentivise waste reduction by businesses is a specific commitment within the Programme for Government and classified as being a major programme by the UK Cabinet Office.

We will also look at the potential to apply Extended Producer Responsibility to additional products which are difficult to recycle such as tyres, textiles and bulky wastes (for example furniture, mattresses and carpets) and products used in construction.

Working across the division and with a range of external stakeholders, the purpose of the placement is to identify, collate and analyse data of the impact of material waste streams (for example textiles, and bulky wastes) against set criteria/ policy outcomes (Economic, Social and Environmental impact) to determine the relative priority for action. This work will be critical to consider best allocation of resources and support cross Government discussions.

Key Tasks

- Evidence co-ordination and quality assurance, working with policy teams across the division to identify evidence and evidence gaps for material streams.
- Desk based research – by using appropriate methods to provide evidence reviews (literature or statistical data) on specific material streams.
- Stakeholder engagement – facilitating discussion and collecting evidence and opinions from external stakeholders and academics working in this area. Liaison with officials from England, Scotland and Northern Ireland also working in this area.
- Analysis and modelling – by using a range of evidence identified, analyse the impact of waste material streams against set criteria to determine priority needs for action. Determine evidence gaps and describe future evidence needs. Recommend a prioritised list of materials that EPR should be extended to include, with a particular consideration of timeframes, existing infrastructure, existing policy and EU practice.
- Programme Documentation – ensure the availability of relevant evidence documents and data for future evidence-based policy development.

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

Skills required:

Key Skills

- Excellent research skills
- Ability to analyse complex information and data
- Ability to write clearly and concisely
- Ability of presenting technical material in an accessible format
- Presentation skills
- Creative thinking

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to apply an innovative approach
Outputs:	As agreed with line manager and in relation to the above priorities
Host Organisation:	Welsh Government
Placement Start Date	ASAP
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>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 based with the EPR policy team, working closely with the Welsh Governments Knowledge and Analytical team. 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, in-line with working arrangements for all Welsh Government employees.</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	<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>This placement is only available to applicants with a placement as an integral part of their PhD programmes.</p>
Funding	
<p>Funding for this placement is expected to be covered by the research council as per the applicant's programme. Welsh Government will pay the cost of hotel, subsistence, travelling and any other additional expenses incurred by the PhD candidate in connection with the Project Support Services, subject to the limits in Welsh Government's travel and subsistence policy.</p>	



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Contact

Name:

Contact **Stephany Aymerich** (Research & Academic Engagement Manager) via researchplacements@gov.wales

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.