

Project: PIPS - PhD student placement opportunity

Title: The assessment of drinking water quality standards in Wales in the context of recent WHO recommendations and the revised parameters at EU level

Background:

There are many challenges facing the effective and responsible management of water, including maintaining safe and reliable drinking water supplies which is critical to public health and well-being. The management of water bodies and the continued provision of high-quality water are under continuing pressure from climate change, extreme weather events, pollution levels and increased demand for water to support population growth.

The quality of public and private water supply in Wales is regulated under retained EU legislation, specifically the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2018 and the Private Supplies (Wales) Regulations 2017 which transposed the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC).

The Directive has since been revised at EU level to reflect more recent scientific developments and recommendations of the World Health Organisation (WHO) on drinking water standards.

Although the UK is no longer part of the EU, the Welsh Government is committed to continue to deliver safe, clean and reliable drinking water to our homes, businesses and industry. For this reason, consideration is being given to the full or partial transposition of Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast) 2020 (Recast Directive).

The Recast Directive aims to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment from the negative effects of contaminated drinking water. It updates water quality standards and introduces a risk-based approach to monitoring water. It also seeks to improve the information on water quality and water services provided to consumers as well as access to clean water. This includes public and private water supplies.

Project Outline:

The postholder will require to undertake the evaluation of the recast Directive in cooperation with key partners, such as the Drinking Water Inspectorate and water companies operating in Wales. The post holder will be required to lead on this work, undertake detailed analysis and evaluation of the Directive's aims and requirements, including identifying existing research and evidence and evidence gaps, with the purpose of developing fully considered and scoped out options for the Welsh Government.

The remit of this placement falls under the portfolio of the Minister for Climate Change and supports delivery objectives identified under primary legislation such as the Environment Act and Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

The placement will be in the Water Policy Team which is responsible for developing bespoke policy for Wales to manage its water systems sustainably, including inland waters, estuaries and coastal waters. The team also oversees the effective functioning of Wales' water industry and safeguards drinking water quality in line with statutory specifications.

Key Tasks

- Collation and review of relevant research and data sources
- Analysis of complex information and data trends
- Engagement with internal and external stakeholders
- Development of an initial overview report with policy solutions
- Identification of research needs and evidence gaps
- Summary of findings and recommendations



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Details	
Skills required:	<p><u>Key Skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Ability to apply an innovative approach
Host Organisation:	Welsh Government
Available posts:	1
Placement Start Date	TBC
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>
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 PIPS 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>Exact 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 UK based students.</p> <p>All applicants must seek approval from their academic supervisor before applying</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>	
Contact	



Doctoral Training Policy and Evidence Placement

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 programme manager.**

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.