

Doctoral Training Policy and Evidence Placement

Project: PhD student placement opportunity

Title: “Local Environment Quality Policy Development”

The Environmental Protection in the Welsh Government seeking PhD students for placement opportunities in its Local Environment Quality policy team. 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 littering reduction, fly-tipping, dog fouling and other forms of environmental anti-social behaviour. The team oversees several key pieces of environmental legislation including The Environmental Protection (Single Use Plastic Products) (Wales) Act 2023, certain sections of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (including the contaminated land regime) and proposed legislation on single-use vapes and wet wipes containing plastic.

Key Tasks

The post holder will work in the team, supporting one or more of the following high profile work streams:

- Gathering and analysing evidence to support policy and legislative development to address single-use products in Wales with a particular focus on those made of plastic;
- Development of key policy areas to support measures to prevent litter and fly-tipping Prevention (Including data gathering and monitoring) and to address legacy land contamination; and
- Communications and behaviour change

The post holder will benefit from a range of development opportunities including supporting Cabinet Secretaries (Ministers); working at pace within a high-profile policy area and engaging with a wide range of stakeholders and departments across Welsh Government; building valuable working relationships; broadening their knowledge and understanding of Welsh Government policy work and have the opportunity to identify areas to add value to the delivery of evidence-based policy.

With support from their Welsh Government supervisors, the post holder will be expected to take responsibility for management and delivery of work commitments, providing the opportunity to develop team working and project management skills whilst contributing to the development and/or implementation of Welsh Government policy

Details

Skills required:	<p><u>Essential Skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong critical thinking, data analysis/manipulation and presentation skills; • Ability to produce concise, well written documents presenting technical material in an accessible format; • Ability to work confidently with a range of stakeholders; • Ability to undertake research and interpret research outputs to deliver evidence-based policy; • Ability to apply an innovative approach to problem solving; and • 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
Placement Start Date	TBC
Development Opportunities	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. An excellent opportunity to experience how academic and other research feeds into the creation of government policy. The post-holder will be expected to work

Doctoral Training Policy and Evidence Placement

	<p>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>
<p>Duration, location, working arrangements and environment:</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>Application criteria</p>	<p>Welsh Government can only accept applications to the PhD student placement programme from registered students.</p> <p>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.</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.</p> <p>Please note: we do not pay students directly</p>	
<p>Contact</p>	
<p>Name:</p>	<p>Contact 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.</p>	



Doctoral Training Policy and Evidence Placement

NOTE: All applicants must confirm that they have received authorisation to take an interruption of studies 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.