

## Doctoral Training Policy and Evidence Placement

### Project: PhD student placement opportunity

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

#### **Background:**

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 included a commitment to introduce a Clean Air Act for Wales and extend the provision of air quality monitoring. The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024 received Royal Assent on 14 February, giving effect to these commitments. The Act 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.

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

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>Number of posts available:</b>	<p><b>Multiple</b> – Please note that the deadline for the first round of applications will be the 29<sup>th</sup> of August.</p> <p><i>We will accept new applications for this advert until end of November 2025.</i></p>
<b>Placement Start Date</b>	2025 – Start date will be agreed following successful Welsh Government security clearance. <i>Please note that this process can take up to 8 weeks.</i>
<b>Development Opportunities</b>	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

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	<p>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 policymaking 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>
<p><b>Duration, location, working arrangements and environment:</b></p>	<p>Placements are available as full-time and part-time roles 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><b>Application criteria</b></p>	<p><b>Welsh Government can only accept applications to the PhD student placement programme from registered PhD students living in the UK.</b></p> <p><b><u>All applicants must seek approval from their academic supervisors before applying.</u></b></p> <p><b>International students with a visa are welcome to apply on a part-time basis due to visa restrictions</b> – Visa holders must seek approval from their DTPs / programme coordinators.</p>
<p><b>Funding</b></p>	
<p><b>For PhD students applying for a voluntary placement (Funded – voluntary):</b> Funding will be provided 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. 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><u>Please note: we do not pay students directly.</u></b></p> <p><b>For PhD students with a placement requirement as an essential part of their PhD programme / PIPS (Unpaid – required placement):</b> Funding for this type of 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>	
<p><b>Contact</b></p>	



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**Name:**

Contact Dr Simon Baldwin (Head of Research & innovation) via  
[researchplacements@gov.wales](mailto: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 Simon Baldwin and indicate the type of placement (funded – voluntary or Unpaid – required placement) and the type of role: full or part-time.

**NOTE: All applicants must confirm that they have received authorisation to undertake a placement from their academic supervisor and/or programme coordinator.**

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 the research and innovation team via the email provided as soon as possible to discuss your requirements and any questions you may have.