

Doctoral Training Policy and Evidence Placement

Project: PhD student placement opportunity

Title: *Air Quality Evidence: Supporting the implementation of regulation and guidance on Domestic Burning and Smoke Control in Wales*

Purpose of the Post

The Air Quality, Noise and Soundscapes Branch is responsible for a number of high-profile and interesting topic areas including Local Air Quality Management (LAQM), nitrogen dioxide emissions, anti-idling, promoting awareness of air pollution and behaviour change, and smoke control and domestic burning.

The post holder will have the opportunity to support various projects related to domestic burning and smoke control. The post holder will be able to support implementation of the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024 by helping to draft smoke control guidance and analyse consultation responses. The post holder will also have the opportunity to assist in developing impact assessments for the domestic solid fuel regulations which are in development. Additionally, the post holder will have the opportunity to establish a procedure, with supporting guidance, for authorising fuels and appliances through an online system.

There are opportunities within this role to work with senior officials and provide advice to Ministers. The post holder will work with the team and colleagues within Welsh Government and will have the opportunity to work with the UK and other devolved Governments, academia, public bodies and non-governmental organisations.

With support and direction, the post holder will help to build valuable working relationships, broaden their knowledge and understanding of Welsh Government policy work, particularly related to assessing impacts of policy changes, which supports the effective delivery of evidence-based policy.

The exact tasks required of the student will be dependent on the particular focus and priorities 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
- Ability to apply an innovative approach

Outputs:

As agreed with line manager and in relation to the above priorities.

Host Organisation:

Welsh Government

Number of posts available:

1

Placement Start Date

January 2025

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. 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 policymaking and enhance their existing transferable skills.

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	<p>The student will join a policy team that has a responsibility for developing policies and legislation related to air quality, noise and soundscapes. 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>Application criteria</p>	<p>Welsh Government can only accept applications to the PhD student placement programme from registered PhD students living in the UK.</p> <p><u>All applicants must seek approval from their academic supervisors before applying.</u></p>
<p>Funding</p>	
<p>For PhD students applying for a voluntary placement (Funded – voluntary): 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. <u>Please note: we do not pay students directly.</u></p> <p>For PhD students with a placement requirement as an essential part of their PhD programme / PIPS (Unpaid – required placement): 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>Contact</p>	
<p>Name:</p>	<p>Contact Dr Simon Baldwin (Head of Research & innovation) via researchplacements@gov.wales</p> <p>The Welsh Government takes the protection of your data seriously. If you contact the Welsh Government then our <u>Privacy Notice</u> explains how we use your information and the ways in which we protect your privacy.</p>
<p>Application process</p>	



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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.