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| **Project:** | |
| **Title: PhD student placement opportunity – Supporting the Welsh Government’s work to adopt a collaborative approach to One Health working.** | |
| The Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO) in the Welsh Government is responsible for raising the standards of health and welfare for all animals kept in Wales – farmed animals, companion animals (pets), sporting and working animals.  The OCVO is seeking a PhD student for a placement within its small One Health team focussing on One Health working across OCVO and the wider Welsh Government. The teams remit falls under the portfolio of the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, which supports delivery of the objectives proposed by the One Health subgroup following a cabinet paper published in 2024. The aim of paper was to encourage One Health working within the Welsh Government and to investigate the benefits of joined up working.  **Purpose of the Post**  The role will significantly contribute the development of a One Health situation analysis. The successful candidate will join the One Health policy team, developing an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. The following objectives, will provide the focus for this specific post:   1. Identify and share information with internal and external stakeholders across the UK on the approach being taken in Wales. 2. Outline One Health governance and national One Health assessment plans. 3. Draft a One Health situation analysis report. 4. Support publication of the situation analysis. 5. Make sound recommendations to the WG One Health subgroup   **Key Tasks**  The role will also include, but is not limited to –   1. Collation and review of relevant information sources. 2. Engagement with internal and external stakeholders. 3. Assistance with drafting and presentation of briefing papers for senior officials and the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales. 4. Contributing to development of policy recommendations. 5. Publication of key policy documents including situation analysis.   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. We do not expect the successful applicant to have specific veterinary knowledge – this will be provided by others however knowledge of One Health is desirable. The core task is that of drafting and aligning objectives, linked to wider WG and UK wide outcomes. | |
| **Details** | |
| **Skills required:** | **Key Skills**   * Ability to gather evidence and summarise, from a range of sources. * Ability to analyse complex information and data. * Strong written and verbal communication skills and the ability to write clearly and concisely. * Ability to organise complex work to meet milestones and delivery targets * Ability to presenting material in a range of accessible formats. * Creative thinking * Good inter-personal skills required to work with a range of Welsh Government officials and stakeholders * An inquiring and learning mindset, to get the most from the placement |
| **Outputs:** | As agreed with line manager and in relation to the above priorities. We would expect:   * A report summarising the outputs of the situation analysis with recommendations to the One Health subgroup on the best way to proceed. |
| **Host Organisation:** | Welsh Government |
| **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 policy-making and enhance their existing transferable skills.  The student will join a team managing a diverse evidence-base and delivering technical and advisory support to the OCVO One Health 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.  The successful applicant will be responsible for delivery of an important work area. We would expect the final reports/documents to be of a standard suitable for publication.  The post will also offer an opportunity to work with senior colleagues in the Welsh Government, and across the UK, learning about animal and public health protection and wider policy development. |
| **Duration, location, working arrangements and environment:** | The role will be full-time with a mix of home and office working.  Post-holders will be provided with a Welsh Government laptop and the policy team will ensure that the post-holder is fully supported during the placement. The placement will be for a 6-month period and will focus on delivering the objectives set out in the job specification.  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.  Start date will be agreed following successful Welsh Government security clearance. |
| **Application criteria** | **Welsh Government can only accept applications to the PhD student placement programme from registered students living in the UK during the intended placement period**.  **All applicants must seek approval from their academic supervisor before applying.** |
| **Funding** | |
| The placement will be funded by Welsh Government (WG) 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 will 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.  **Please note: We do not pay students directly.** | |
| **Contact** | |
| **Name:** | Contact **Dr Simon Baldwin** (Head of Research an Innovation Branch) 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**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgov.wales%2Fabout%2Fwelsh-government-privacy-notice%2F%3Flang%3Den&data=02%7C01%7CCaroline.Fallone%40gov.wales%7C24ae25ebbd28440c42e308d742b5966d%7Ca2cc36c592804ae78887d06dab89216b%7C0%7C0%7C637051219998434627&sdata=Sg3llOKFBLuxSLlQXQlpg%2Bmxb3dMNeR3Sgjw4Z7HQSY%3D&reserved=0) 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. **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. | |