

Doctoral Training Policy and Evidence Placement

Project: PhD student placement opportunity

Title: “Supporting the Welsh Government’s work to control Antimicrobial Resistance in Animals”

Background:

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 antimicrobial resistance (AMR) policy team. The teams remit falls under the portfolio of the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, which supports delivery of the objectives identified in the Welsh Governments Antimicrobial Resistance in Animals, Five Year Implementation [Plan](#), for Wales.

The Implementation Plan was recommended by the Animal Antimicrobial Resistance [Delivery Group](#). The team also works closely with a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders and representatives of the UK Government and the other Devolved Administrations.

The rise and spread of AMR poses a threat to the ability to control infections in healthcare settings, in the wider community and in animals. The impacts of leaving AMR unchecked are wide-ranging and extremely costly, not only in financial terms but also in terms of global, public and animal health, trade, food security, environmental wellbeing and socioeconomic development.

Purpose of the Post:

The role will significantly contribute the development of a new delivery approach to AMR controls in companion animals. The successful candidate will join the AMR policy team, leading the AMR Delivery Group in considering an approach to AMR controls in the companion animal sector for Wales.

The following objectives, will provide the focus for this specific post –

1. Consider and produce a summary of the activities being developed across the UK in relation to companion animal AMR controls.
2. Lead on drafting a potential delivery approach to AMR companion animal controls for Wales. Taking into consideration work being developed elsewhere, avoiding duplication and ensure a joined-up approach (sharing best practice, value for money etc.)
3. Present both the summary and the delivery approach to the Wales AMR Delivery Group and the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group, seeking their agreement to the recommendations for companion animal controls.
4. Share information with internal and external stakeholders across the UK on the approach being taken in Wales.
5. Support the One Health approach, by engaging with colleagues in public health and the environment as well as leading industry AMR groups.

Key Tasks

The role will include, but is not limited to -

- Collation and review of relevant information sources.
- Engagement with internal and external stakeholders (such as the AMR Delivery Group, Public Health Wales etc.).
- Drafting and presentation of briefing papers for senior officials, the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales and the Welsh AMR Delivery Group.
- Contributing to development of policy recommendations.

The student will also have the opportunity to become involved in other work areas where they have a specific interest.

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Note that we do not expect the successful applicant to have specific veterinary knowledge, nor knowledge of antibiotic therapeutics – this will be provided by others. The core task is that of drafting and aligning objectives, linked to wider WG and UK wide outcomes.

Details

Skills required:	<p><u>Key Skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	<p>As agreed with line manager and in relation to the above priorities. We would expect –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A report summarising activities currently undertaken to address AMR in the companion animal sector. 2. Working directly with the AMR Delivery Group, to draft a delivery approach to AMR controls in the companion animal sector for Wales.
Host Organisation:	Welsh Government
Number of posts available:	1
Placement Start Date	Autumn 2025 – Start date will be agreed following successful Welsh Government security clearance.
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> <p>The student will join a team managing a diverse evidence-base and delivering technical and advisory support to the Animal AMR 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>The successful applicant will be responsible for delivery of important work areas. We would expect the final reports/documents to be of a suitable standard.</p> <p>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.</p>

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Duration, location, working arrangements and environment:	<p>The role will be full-time with a mix of home and office working. The successful candidate must be available to travel to the WG Cathays Park offices (with suitable notice).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The placement will be for a 3-month period and will focus on delivering the objectives set out in the job specification.</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>
Application criteria	<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>

Funding

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. **Please note: we do not pay students directly.**

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.

Contact

Name: Contact Clare Dicks (Programme Manager of Student Placement Programme) 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 Clare Dicks 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

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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.