

## Mentrau Iaith: Review of practices and skills

### Summary

This is an exciting opportunity to do a paid work placement on a project for the Welsh Government. The focus of the project is a review of local economic development and business support practices of Mentrau Iaith, a network of 22 local Welsh language initiatives.

The successful applicant will work closely with Welsh Government officials and stakeholders to undertake research to support Welsh Government policy officials. The applicant will have the opportunity to apply research skills in a policy environment, further develop their research skills (such as data collection, analysis, report writing and communicating findings), and enhance their knowledge of the research context outside academia.

### The Organisation

The Welsh Government is the devolved Government for Wales, with responsibility for the economy, education, health and the Welsh NHS, business, public services, Welsh language and the environment of Wales.

Specifically, the internship will be based within Knowledge and Analytic Services (KAS). KAS provides the collection, analysis and presentation of research and data for policymakers and the general public in keeping with professional standards. They offer independent evidence to understand, develop, implement, monitor and evaluate government policies. KAS also supports policy colleagues with policy development, implementation and delivery.

### The Internship

The intern will be placed within the Welsh language research branch. The internship will provide an exciting opportunity to work at the heart of Welsh Government. It will require working closely with policy officials and government social researchers, and will provide an opportunity to apply research skills in a policy environment, further develop research skills, and enhance policy knowledge.

The successful candidate will benefit from development opportunities offered centrally by the Welsh Government, potentially including mentoring, shadowing, peer support and training.

Interns will benefit from the experience of working closely with the Welsh Government:

- Gaining a better understanding of the world outside of academia and increasing employability, using their knowledge and skills to contribute to the work and priorities of the Welsh Government.
- The intern's colleagues at the Welsh Government can share insight and knowledge in relation to the intern's PhD project, as well as networking opportunities within the policy arena linked to their research
- Transferable skills and knowledge
- Time management skills
- Report writing skills

## The Project

### Mentrau Iaith and economic development: review of practices and skills

#### *Background*

The Mentrau Iaith seek to create opportunities for anyone and everyone to enjoy using Welsh within their communities. The first Menter Iaith was established in 1991 and there are, by now, 22 in operation across Wales. Mentrau Iaith are funded through a range of sources, including the Welsh Government's Grant Scheme to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language.

The work of Mentrau Iaith is based within communities and involves engaging in activities and holding events that create opportunities to use the Welsh language. Mentrau Iaith have also established or supported commercial projects such as cafes, shops, community centres, trainee schemes, translation services, nurseries and childcare schemes. Some are active within the economic development sphere and have, for example, been actively involved in creating subsidiary social businesses or helped local groups or individuals to set up a new enterprise or social business.

The Welsh Government wish to better understand the current and potential future contribution of Mentrau Iaith within the economic development sphere.

#### *Project objectives*

- *The project involves the collection and analysis of primary and secondary data relating to the Mentrau Iaith and their engagement with, and activities within, the economic development and business support sphere. The student will communicate the research and its findings to Welsh Government policy officials and wider stakeholders, including the Mentrau Iaith, through presentations and a research report. The project will inform ongoing policy development within Welsh Government and the work of Mentrau Iaith across Wales by exploring the following non-exhaustive list of research questions and themes.*

- Why do Mentrau Iaith engage with in economic development and business support?
- What activities and practices do/have Mentrau Iaith undertake(n) with regard to economic development and business support?
- What skills and experiences do Mentrau Iaith staff have in relation to economic development and business support?
- What further training, upskilling or support would benefit Mentrau Iaith in their efforts within the economic development and business support spheres?

*The project will involve the following:*

- Collection and review of secondary data, including literature and documentation available regarding Mentrau Iaith and their involvement in local economic development and business support.
- Collection of data through semi-structured interviews with Mentrau Iaith officials and wider stakeholders.
- Analysis of the secondary and primary data collected.
- Develop case studies based on perceived good and/or innovative practice, to be included within the report and shared with practitioners.
- Draw conclusions based on the analysis of the data.

*Anticipated project outputs*

- *Presentation of findings to Welsh Government policy officials.*
- *Presentation of findings and sharing of lessons learnt/best practices with Mentrau Iaith.*
- *Comprehensive research report detailing the data collected, analysis and conclusions.*

## Internship responsibilities and requirements

The internship will last for 3 months, with the option of extension, during which time the student's PhD project will be paused by their home institution. The student will be paid the equivalent of their stipend during their internship. Over and above leave policies, time for existing PhD commitments can be arranged on discussion with line managers. E.g. research group meetings and conference presentations. Applications are encouraged from part-time students.

It is anticipated that the successful applicant will work in a hybrid way between home and a Welsh Government office during their internship. This may change depending on Welsh Government policy. Any changes to working arrangements will be discussed with successful applicants.

The internship will last for a period of 3 months full-time or the part-time equivalent. For students registered on a part-time studentship, this internship is available on a part-time basis over a longer time frame (no fewer than three days a working week), which would be negotiated

between the WG and the successful applicant. If you would like to be considered on a part-time basis, please specify your preferred working hours on the application form.

## Student specification

The student must have:

- good project management skills;
- the ability to lead and manage a research project independently;
- strong literature review skills including the ability to synthesise a wide range of evidence to make it easily understandable to a non-expert audience;
- understanding of how a range of sources and types of evidence can contribute to an evidence base;
- skills required to undertake a series of semi-structured interviews, including identifying and engaging potential interviewees; developing discussion guides; conducting, recording and analysing the data in an appropriate and ethical manner. The student must also hold the ability to undertake interviews in Welsh and English;
- the ability to present research findings to practitioners and policy officials in Welsh and English;
- the ability to produce concise, well-written documents, presenting technical material in an accessible format in both Welsh and English.

## Start date of internship

Between May – November 2025, with the exact dates to be negotiated. There may be some flexibility dependent on individual circumstances.

## Funding and costs

Reasonable travel and accommodation costs for students not normally based in Cardiff can be met. Requests should be consistent with WGSSS guidelines. Applications from students requiring additional funding for travel and accommodation will not be treated less favourably. For any queries on this please contact Carole Baker at the WGSSS on: [enquiries@wgsss.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@wgsss.ac.uk)

## Security

The Welsh Government's vetting procedures (which apply to temporary as well as permanent staff) involve the completion of a Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) application form and a Security Questionnaire for the purpose of security vetting.

This process requires the applicant to produce in person three original forms of identification documents, one of which should be photographic (passport, new driving license), one

document should showing their current address, plus one of: a utility bill, birth certificate, P45 or P60.

## Queries

Any queries relating to the post or application process should be directed to Dyfan Powel  
[dyfan.powel@gov.wales](mailto:dyfan.powel@gov.wales).