



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



The relationship between economic growth and poverty reduction

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 an evidence review to consider the two-way relationship between economic growth and poverty reduction and the role of cross-cutting strategies in sub-national / regional governments to enable this. The successful applicant will work closely with Welsh Government officials to develop research outputs and support the Welsh Government in their research process. The applicant will have the opportunity to apply research skills in a policy environment, further develop generic skills (such as report writing or making presentations), and to enhance their knowledge of research 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 and the environment of Wales.

Specifically, the internship will be based within the Knowledge and Analytic Services (KAS) team in the Communities and Social Justice directorate. 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 research will focus on informing policy design and implementation across Welsh Government to ensure individual poverty policies are aligned with economic strategies. The research area is cross-cutting but will be particularly beneficial in the tackling poverty and economic policy areas. The internship will provide an exciting opportunity to work at the heart of Welsh Government. The internship will require working closely with policy officials and researchers, and will provide an opportunity to apply research skills in a policy environment, further develop generic skills (such as report writing or making presentations), and to 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 of the Welsh Government.
- The intern's colleagues at the Welsh Government can offer an insight into the intern's PhD project that can contribute to the success of their thesis', as well as networking opportunities within the policy arena linked to their research area
- Transferable skills and knowledge
- Time management skills
- Report writing skills

The Project

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Background

By collating and assessing evidence from secondary sources, the research will consider the two-way relationship between economic growth and poverty and the role of cross-cutting strategies in sub-national / regional governments to enable this. We know that economic growth does not always reduce poverty, and that inclusive growth is important. We also broadly know the individual policies that can help support or facilitate economic activity / growth (childcare, skills, employability support). We're keen to explore the key factors influencing the impact of economic growth on poverty, and those that are particularly important in ensuring both economic growth and poverty reduction.

Anticipated project outcomes

The main project outcomes are expected to include a literature review of the relationship between economic growth and poverty reduction. This will be predominantly desk-based (reviews of published research and policy documents, and existing data sets) but may include interviews with officials in other government departments and devolved administrations and/or stakeholders. We anticipate that this research will:

1. Describe trends and any correlations in economic output and poverty data in Wales and the UK.
2. Determine the key factors that influence the impact economic growth has on poverty reduction.
3. Identify policy implications given the relationship/influential factors identified in 1.) and 2.) above.

This work would result in a short summary report synthesising the evidence – including how it could potentially be measured for Wales – with the findings presented to analytical and policy officials.

Internship responsibilities and requirements

The internship will last for 3 months, with the option of extension, during which time the students 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 groups 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), this 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:

- the ability to analyse qualitative data and quantitative data;
- the ability to synthesis qualitative and quantitative data;
- report writing and presentation skills;
- project design and management skills;
- an understanding of poverty and/or basic economics.

Start date of internship

September 2025 (exact date 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

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 Sara Ahmad sara.ahmad@gov.wales