



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Evidence synthesis to support Wales' shift to becoming a Circular Economy

Summary

This is an exciting opportunity to do a work placement on a project for the Welsh Government. The successful applicant will work closely with Welsh Government officials and stakeholders to research and develop a varied range of 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 and to enhance their knowledge of research outside academia.

The internship will be located within the Climate Change and Environment Research branch within the Social Research and Information Division and will support the Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy policy area.

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 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 internship will provide an exciting opportunity to work at the heart of Welsh Government. The internship will be part of a team supporting the Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy policy area. 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

Project background

The Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Division promotes and champions resource efficiency and development of a circular economy across the whole of Wales, providing information, policy direction, funding and a delivery infrastructure to bring businesses, third and public sectors, communities and the whole of the Welsh public along with us.

How we manage the resources we use is crucial in tackling climate change and biodiversity loss. Making the change to a circular economy is vital to address the climate and nature emergencies. In 2021 the Welsh Government published the 'Beyond Recycling' strategy with the aim of making the circular economy in Wales a reality: [Beyond recycling | GOV.WALES](#).

Key actions in the strategy include introducing an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for packaging and considering EPR for additional products which are difficult to recycle such as batteries, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and textiles.

To support the development of effective policy interventions and take advantage of the potential opportunities for Wales in this area, this internship would involve evidence synthesis to consider the opportunities for Wales from implementing further EPR schemes.

The exact focus and tasks will be confirmed closer to the start dates. However, when expressing an interest please indicate if you have a particular interest in a certain topic or in specific research techniques, and we will try and offer a project in your area of interest and expertise.

The internship is likely to involve:

- Engagement with policy officials to understand evidence gaps, requirements, and develop research questions.
- Reviews of existing evidence from both Welsh Government and wider research, including evaluations of projects/policy interventions, as well as statistical outputs with links to the topic of interest.
- May also involve discussions with external stakeholders to explore evidence gaps and experiences.

This project is likely to involve engagement with a wide range of policy teams in addition to Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy, such as Economy, Climate Change, Environmental Protection, reflecting its cross-cutting nature. It will therefore be important to

consider the evidence gathered in terms of how it relates to current policy priorities and the broader context of the Beyond Recycling Strategy, the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, Climate Change etc. as appropriate.

Anticipated project outcomes:

- A report reviewing existing evidence focusing on opportunities for Wales from implementing further EPR schemes (exact focus to be decided).
- A presentation of the findings to relevant policy teams.
- Publication of a research report on the Welsh Government website.

Internship responsibilities and requirements

The internship will last for a maximum of 3 months. Full time students are expected to step back from their PhD to focus on the placement for its duration in line with ESRC guidelines ([ESRC Postgraduate Funding Guide](#) p. 27). 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 quickly understand Welsh Government's priorities in this area and to lead effective discussions with policy teams to understand their needs.
- Strong literature review and evidence appraisal skills, including the ability to synthesise a wide range of evidence and carry out desk research.
- Ability to evaluate research findings and apply them to a Welsh policy context.
- Ability to produce concise, well written documents, presenting complex evidence in an accessible format.

Start date of internship

January 2026 (exact date to be negotiated). There may be some flexibility dependent on individual circumstances.

Funding and costs

Reasonable travel costs for students not normally based in Cardiff can be met. Requests should be consistent with Wales Graduate School for the Social Sciences (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 Katy Marrin Katy.Marrin001@gov.wales and Jo Coates Joanne.Coates@gov.wales.

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.

Nationality requirements

'Eligibility for taking up an internship on this scheme is dependent on meeting the [Civil Service Nationality rules](#). Please check that you are eligible before applying. Those who do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be able to take up a placement opportunity.

Queries

Any queries relating to the post or application process should be directed to Cecilia Kumar (Cecilia.kumar@gov.wales).

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