

ESRC Welsh Graduate School for Social Sciences

Research in Practice Placement Opportunity



The following information has been provided by the Host Organisation and outlines the opportunity available. Any queries about this placement should be addressed to the host organisation in the details provided below.

This placement is aimed at Postgraduate Researchers who have funding through the ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership from October 2024 onwards, who must complete a Research in Practice placement as part of their award.

Name of Host Organisation	Greenhouse Sports
Address	35 Cosway Street London NW1 5BT
Website	www.greenhousesports.org
Brief description of the Host organisation:	<p>Established in 2002, Greenhouse Sports is youth charity, with a specific focus on using sport for development. That means, we are intentional in our use of sport to support social change. Sport is our hook to engage young people and one of the vehicles through which we support youth development. But our purpose is not to create elite athletes or address physical inactivity. Rather, we create opportunities for young people to recognise their strengths and develop the psychological and social skills they need to thrive both now and in the future.</p> <p>Working across London, Portsmouth, and Leicester, specifically in areas of high-deprivation, we embed evidence-based positive youth development programmes into primary and secondary schools. These programmes are delivered by our trusted, high-quality coach-mentors who deliver year-round to ensure that young people have access to sport, mentoring, enrichment, and employability activities. Through these programmes, every year, Greenhouse Sports support over 8,000 young people to</p>

	attend school more often, improve their wellbeing, and raise their aspirations, transforming life chances in the communities that need it the most.
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PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITY	
Placement role title:	Data and Insights Officer
Background/expected impact of the project:	<p>Greenhouse Sports is a sport for development charity, which embeds evidence-based positive youth development programmes across schools in London, Leicester and Portsmouth. Aligned with academic evidence as well as our own insights, the programmes that Greenhouse Sports embeds within their schools are multi-component programmes, comprising before, during, and after school sports sessions, individual and small group mentoring programmes, enrichment trips and employability sessions. Additionally, camps are provided throughout the school holidays.</p> <p>Overall, we know that these programmes work – enhancing young people’s psychosocial assets, which lead to enhanced confidence, self-esteem, and self-worth, increased career aspirations, and hope for the future. Our data shows that through our programmes, young people attend school more, engage and behave more positively, and subsequently are better positioned to succeed in the future.</p> <p>However, while we have a strong understanding of the overall impact of our programmes, we need to know more to ensure that our programmes are as effective and efficient as possible to ensure our money is allocated appropriate and, most importantly, that young people who engage with our programmes gain the most benefit.</p> <p>Through this placement, we aim to either gain greater insights into the impact of our programmes, either drawing on our existing data sets or through new data collected, or gain a stronger understanding of</p>

	<p>academic literature that may inform our programme design.</p> <p>There is flexibility within this placement for the student to co-construct the specific focus.</p>
Outline of duties/description of opportunity	<p>Please note, there is flexibility in the specifics of the role. We are keen to co-create a position that is most beneficial to the individual. However, we are keen for researchers to engage with either existing academic literature in the area of sport for development, positive youth development, pedagogy etc to identify areas for best practice for Greenhouse Sports. We are also interested in understanding more of the policy landscape pertaining to poverty, youth development, and any links to statutory funding. Thus, there is scope for this placement to focus exclusively on literature and/or policy reviews if desired. However, we also hold and frequently collect data sets from our participants, and analysis and interpretation, along with identification of applied implications are critical. Thus, the placement can focus on data analysis more explicitly. Finally, there is scope for short, standalone research projects to be conducted aligned with the aims of Greenhouse Sports – these can be discussed at interview if of interest.</p>
Expected output(s)/deliverable(s)	<p>Variable, depending on the finalised focus of the project but likely including some, if not all, of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A review of pertinent literature - Analysis of a new/existing data set - A report of the data analysis/outcomes - Presentations for pertinent teams - Feedback/presentation to the senior leadership team
Skills and experience required for the role	
Please indicate which of the following skills could be developed or applied during the placement, you may select more than one.	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research skills</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication skills</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project management</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Policy understanding or engagement</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration / teamwork</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data collection</p>

	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific methodologies (please specify): <input type="checkbox"/> Software skills (please specify): <input type="checkbox"/> Professional and transferable skills <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
What support will be provided for the Postgraduate Researcher <i>e.g necessary resources, training, support and equipment for the student to undertake their placement</i>	<p>The researcher will be part of the insight and engagement team, working closely with our data analyst and insight manager, overseen by the Director of Impact and Engagement (Prof. Camilla Knight). This team meets weekly to discuss ongoing projects, address challenges, and support progression. The researcher will also work closely with other members of our staff, including members of the fundraising team, business resources, and our coaching team as required. They will have access to all data, knowledge, and expertise required to execute the role.</p> <p>The researcher will also be introduced to our international research board who they can access for support and insights. This board comprises 16 researchers with expertise from around the world. They will also provide updates directly through presentations and written reports to our senior leadership team, providing opportunities for learning how to communicate research in practice. This will also provide a valuable source of feedback.</p> <p>At an individual level, the researcher will be managed directly by Prof. Camilla Knight who has 20 years of experience in academia. She will meet with the researcher weekly to support their individual goals and maximise learning opportunities.</p>

KEY INFORMATION	
Number of placements available:	Up to three
Location of placement	Remote and/or Hybrid (London, Leicester, Portsmouth). The location of the placement will influence the projects that are conducted.
Placement duration:	3 months full time or 6 months part time
Full time or part-time <i>attend in a single block or spaced out over period of XXX months</i>	Either is possible

Working hours or core hours	Working hours at Greenhouse Sports are 9-5.30pm. However, there is flexibility built into this aligned with the requirements of the job. This can be discussed to best align with the needs of the student.
In-person, online or hybrid:	Hybrid or remote
Anticipated start date:	We are happy to start posts at multiple times in the year, specifically: the start of April, June, September, and January (see application deadlines below).
Security/health and safety restrictions (if relevant)	The student will be required to sign an NDA to access Greenhouse Sports Data. They will also likely be required to have a DBS check if they are collecting data (but this will depend on the role) and complete some standard
Language requirements (if relevant)	N/A

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION	
<i>Equality, diversity and inclusion in the workplace is about valuing all people equally, fairly and with respect, avoiding all forms of unlawful discrimination irrespective of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.</i>	
Do you agree to uphold the principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion throughout the placement process and experience.	Yes
Does your organisation have an EDI policy?	Yes
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	
<i>WGSSS Postgraduate Researchers receive their studentship stipend whilst attending their Research in Practice placement/opportunity.</i>	
Please confirm if your organisation would be willing to contribute towards additional expenses (e.g. relocation/travel/accommodation costs). If so, please provide details:	Unfortunately, as we are a charity we would not be in a position to contribute towards additional expenses. However, we would not want cost to be a barrier, so would always look to minimise any expenses through remote working etc.

HOW TO APPLY	
Closing date and time for applications	We are happy to accept applications at multiple time points in the year.

	<p>31ST January (for an April start) 31st March (for a June start) 30th June (for a September start) 31st October (for a January start)</p>
How to submit an application	<p><i>Please submit:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A brief cover letter, detailing your reason for interest in this placement, your goals for the placement, what you bring to the placement that you think will be beneficial, and why you think this placement will be beneficial to your development as a researcher. Please keep this to less than 2 page. 2) A CV <p><i>Please e-mail applications to:</i></p> <p>Prof. Camilla Knight Camilla.knight@greenhousesports.org</p> <p>Please cc: escrip@bangor.ac.uk when submitting your application</p>
Recruitment process	<p><i>The Host Organisation is responsible for processing the applications received for this opportunity and applications will be processed as follows:</i></p> <p>On receipt of applications, immediately following the closing date, they will be reviewed.</p> <p>If required, a long-list will be produced and a first round of interviews will be conducted. These will be informal, telephone interviews with the Director of Impact and Engagement.</p> <p>Subsequently (or immediately if a long-list is not required), an online interview with shortlisted candidates will take place.</p> <p>A decision will be made there after.</p>
Contact name and email for any queries related to the placement:	<p>Prof. Camilla Knight Camilla.knight@greenhousesports.org</p>

