

Welsh Government

Research in Practice Project Placement Proposal

Tourette's Syndrome Evidence Review - Prevalence, Demographic Patterns, and Co-Morbidities

Summary of project

This three-month internship, hosted across the Welsh Government's Neurodivergence Policy Team and Disability Disparity Evidence Unit, will review and synthesize existing evidence on Tourette's Syndrome and other tic related conditions. The work will examine prevalence rates, demographic patterns, and known co-morbidities, drawing on academic and clinical research to provide a comprehensive overview intended to support the development of neurodivergence policy in Wales.

Throughout the placement, the successful applicant will work closely with Welsh Government officials and stakeholders to produce a high-quality research output. The work will present opportunities to develop skills beyond the academic environment, including through the application of analytical knowledge within a policy context, engagement with a range of stakeholders, and communication of findings to meet the needs of a diverse target audience.

About Welsh Government Research in Practice Placements

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

A placement in Welsh Government offers a unique opportunity to work alongside policy officials and researchers, applying your research skills in a live policy environment. You'll have the opportunity to develop a range of research skills while deepening your understanding of how evidence shapes decision-making in Welsh Government.

The placement will be based alongside the members of the [Government Social Research \(GSR\) profession](#). GSR provides high-quality analytical advice and independent evidence to inform key policy decisions. Their work supports the full policy cycle—from understanding and development through to implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Placement students will also contribute to wider efforts to support policy colleagues in shaping and delivering effective policy.

The Project: Tourette's Syndrome Evidence Review - Prevalence, Demographic Patterns, and Co-Morbidities

Tourette's Syndrome is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterised by motor and vocal tics, typically emerging between ages 5–7, peaking at 8–12, and often declining in late adolescence. It frequently co-occurs autism and ADHD.

While Tourette's Syndrome is one of three neurodivergent conditions prioritised within the [Neurodivergence Improvement Programme Plan for Wales](#) (NDIP), limitations in current data collection have resulted in a poor understanding of its prevalence and variation across demographics at a local level.

As such, this project aims to review the wider evidence base regarding Tourette's and related tic disorders to help estimate prevalence and demographic patterns in Wales.

The review will synthesise existing academic and clinical research to examine how TS is defined in practice and in relation to other tic-related conditions, assess overall prevalence rates and variations in prevalence across demographic groups, explore commonly reported co-morbidities, and report on identified barriers to data collection and reporting.

In producing the evidence review, it is expected that the successful candidate will:

- Engage with Welsh Government officials and key stakeholders to gain an understanding of the policy context surrounding Tourette's Syndrome in Wales.
- Systematically identify and review evidence from a range of domestic and international sources, including academic studies, clinical papers and government research publications.
- Work alongside the Government Social Research (GSR) profession to conduct and present the research in adherence with GSR professional standards
- Communicate research findings in a presentation to relevant policy colleagues and stakeholders at the conclusion of the placement.

The intended output for this project is a GSR compliant research report, to be published on the Welsh Government website. Findings will be used to inform policy development and guide strategies for improved data capture, clinical awareness, and early diagnosis.

What skills do we need

We welcome individuals who can bring the following skills and experience to the role:

- The ability to digest and interpret complex technical information, and to communicate findings from this information in a clear and accessible manner
- Experience of producing high-quality literature reviews, appraising evidence from a wide range of sources and synthesizing this information within a robust and structured analysis
- Proficiency in working at pace, remaining organised to ensure that key project requirements are delivered to a high standard within a limited timeframe
- Strong communication skills, including the ability to engage stakeholders from a range of different backgrounds and disciplines

Placement timescales

The placement will be for a period of 3 months. The placement is expected to start no earlier than April 2026. The start date will be discussed with the successful applicant and there may be some flexibility dependent on individual circumstances.

Funding and expenses

This opportunity is only open to students funded through the WGSSS Studentship scheme (awarded from October 2024 onwards) who are required to complete a Research in Practice placement. The placement is unpaid, however you will continue to receive your ESRC stipend. Welsh Government is not able to cover any relocation costs associated with the placement.

Reasonable travel and subsistence expenses incurred while carrying out placement-related activities may be claimed, subject to prior agreement with your placement supervisor and in line with the Welsh Government's Travel and Subsistence Policy

Working arrangements

Welsh Government working hours are 37 hours per week, 7 hours 24 minutes per day on average. With prior agreement with the placement supervisor, you may be able to work flexible hours in accordance with Welsh Government practices. For students registered on a part-time studentship, this placement may be available on a part-time basis over a longer time frame, this would be negotiated between the Welsh Government 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.

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

Nationality requirements and security vetting

Eligibility for taking up this placement in Welsh Government 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.

Successful applicants will be required to undergo Welsh Government's vetting procedures (which apply to temporary as well as permanent staff). This will involve the completion of a Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) application form and a Security Questionnaire.

Contacts

For more information about this placement project please contact

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If you require information about Research in Practice placement opportunities in Welsh Government please contact:

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If you have any other queries about Research in Practice Placements please contact:

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