

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	Age Cymru
Registered Address	Ground Floor, Mariners House, Trident Court, East Moors Road, Cardiff, CF24 5TD
Website	https://www.agecymru.wales/
Brief description of the Host organisation:	Age Cymru is the leading national charity working to improve the lives of all older people in Wales. We believe older people should be able to lead healthy and fulfilled lives, have adequate income, access to high quality services and the opportunity to shape their own future. We seek to provide a strong voice for all older people in Wales and to raise awareness of the issues of importance to them.
Company registration Number	Registered charity number 1128436

PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITY

Placement role title: e.g <i>Policy officer</i>	Policy research assistant
Background/expected impact of the project:	Every year since 2020, Age Cymru has carried out a survey of people aged 50 and over across Wales. The aim of this survey, titled 'What Matters to You?,' is to gain a detailed understanding of the challenges facing older people in Wales, including their experiences of



	<p>health and social care, the cost of living, housing, public transport, loneliness and isolation, and much more.</p> <p>In 2025, 'What Matters to You?' was completed by 1,700 people across every local authority in Wales – the highest number ever. In 2026, we're aiming to beat that record and thereby gain an unprecedented insight into the day-to-day challenges facing older people in Wales.</p> <p>In previous years, our Policy team have produced a single, long-form report discussing the findings of the annual survey. Following the growth in engagement witnessed in 2025, we're now looking to spread our analysis across a series of shorter, punchier reports published across summer-autumn 2026. These reports would include a short overview of key findings, followed by a series of thematic reports.</p> <p>These reports will provide a platform for the lived experiences of older people in Wales. In the months following the Senedd election, we will use these reports to provide new politicians and decision-makers with an up-to-date, detailed picture of the challenges faced by people aged 50 and over – providing them with the evidence to make informed policy decisions over the next Senedd.</p> <p>Age Cymru's annual survey reports are also publicly available and are regularly used by wider organisations to inform their decision-making around older people's issues. Lastly, they provide a vital research base for Age Cymru's own campaign work, giving us the information needed to continue our frontline work supporting older generations across Wales.</p>
Outline of duties/description of opportunity	<p>Analysing data from Age Cymru's 2026 Annual Survey to draw out key themes and findings</p> <p>Writing two draft reports: one giving an overview of key findings from survey; one focusing on a subject-specific theme (e.g., healthcare, cost of living, transport, etc)</p>



	<p>Coordinating editorial, design and distribution timelines</p> <p>Assisting the Policy team with other general duties.</p>
Expected output(s)/deliverable(s)	<p>Two written reports based on 2026 Annual Survey findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- One should be an overview of the key findings from the survey (to be published July 2026)- One should focus on a specific theme drawn from the survey data.
Skills and experience required for the role	<p>Ability to interpret and summarise qualitative data</p> <p>Awareness of difference between public policy language/writing style and academic writing</p> <p>Interest in understanding devolved policy areas</p> <p>Ability to work as part of a team, whether remotely or in-person</p>
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 type="checkbox"/> Project management</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy understanding or engagement</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration / teamwork</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Data collection</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Specific methodologies (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Software skills (please specify):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional and transferable skills</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p>
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 provided with a full induction during their first week of work at Age Cymru.</p> <p>There will also be a role-specific induction carried out by the Policy Manager, focusing on the Age Cymru annual survey and reports.</p> <p>The researcher will be supplied with a work laptop and headphones as standard.</p>

KEY INFORMATION	
Number of placements available:	1
Location of placement	Age Cymru offices in Cardiff/online
Placement duration:	3 months (May-August)
Full time or part-time <i>attend in a single block or spaced out over period of XXX months</i>	Full time
Working hours or core hours	35 hours per week, Monday-Friday. Core hours are 10:00-12:00 and 14:00-16:00. Age Cymru uses a flexi hours system.
In-person, online or hybrid:	Hybrid
Anticipated start date:	11 May (can be negotiated)
Security/health and safety restrictions (if relevant)	Candidates must be either UK citizens or have the legal right to work in the UK. If successful, the candidate must provide proof of right to work in the UK prior to the commencement of the role. Age Cymru is committed to safeguarding adults at risk, and children, from abuse and neglect. We expect everyone who works with us to share this commitment.
Language requirements (if relevant)	Welsh language skills are desirable but not essential for this role.

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 Age Cymru is an Equal Opportunities employer and positively encourages



	applications from suitably qualified and eligible candidates, regardless of age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief, marital/civil partnership status, or pregnancy and maternity.
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:	Age Cymru is able to provide reasonable reimbursement for travel and accommodation expenses for work events. This does not include commuting to/from work.

HOW TO APPLY	
Closing date and time for applications	Applications must be submitted by 17:00 on Friday 17 April 2026.
How to submit an application	<p>Please send your CV and a covering letter explaining how you meet the criteria for this role and why you would like to work for Age Cymru. Your application will not be considered without the covering letter.</p> <p>If your application is successful, you will also be required to provide a reference before starting work.</p> <p>Please email your CV and covering letter to hr@agecymru.org.uk.</p> <p>We welcome applications in Welsh, and applications submitted in Welsh will not be treated less favourably than applications submitted in English.</p>
Recruitment process	The application period for this role will close at 17:00 on Friday 17 April.

	<p>Interviews will take place on Microsoft Teams during the week of 20 April. Candidates are welcome to request an in-person interview if they wish.</p> <p>Successful candidates will have some administrative tasks to carry out as part of the set-up for the role.</p> <p>The role will then commence on Monday 11 May.</p>
Contact name and email for any queries related to the placement:	Dr Sam Young Policy Manager sam.young@agecymru.org.uk