

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	Social Care Wales
Host location	Cardiff/Llandudno Junction
Website	https://socialcare.wales/
Brief description of the Host organisation:	Social Care Wales brings together social care workforce regulation, workforce development and service improvement in one organisation. We are funded by Welsh Government to support the priorities for the well-being of future generations for people working in social care, the public and Welsh Government. In Wales we are working towards more collaboration across health and social care, underpinned by the implementation of A Healthier Wales. The Research, Knowledge and Insights Department sits within the Service Support and Improvement Directorate. The Directorate helps people working in social care use research and innovation to shape policy, service design, and practice. Our work is guided by Ymlaen, our strategy for 2024–2029, and we play a key role in supporting the implementation of the Welsh Government’s Performance and Improvement Framework.
Host contact details:	<i>Any queries about this opportunity should be addressed to the Host Organisation:</i> Social Care Wales, South Gate House, Wood Street, Cardiff CF10 1EW Contact:

	Kate Howson kate.howson@socialcare.wales
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PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITY	
Placement role title: <i>e.g Policy officer</i>	PhD Internship – Research Partnerships Officer
Background/expected impact of the project:	Social Care Wales is the registering organisation for the social care sector in Wales and works to support and improve practice and services through its Workforce Strategy and <i>Ymlaen</i> strategy. Within the Knowledge Mobilisation and Research teams, Social Care Wales aims to strengthen research capability and capacity across the social care sector through its Evidence Offer and Researcher Support and Engagement Framework. To better understand research capacity within social care, Social Care Wales is seeking to explore the availability of PhD opportunities and pathways related to social care in Wales. This includes identifying individuals currently undertaking PhDs and understanding how best to support them. The project will generate evidence on the support needs of doctoral researchers in social care and identify opportunities to enhance research capacity-building activities related to this group. Findings may inform the development of new support mechanisms, networks, training opportunities, or services for PhD students and early-career researchers across Wales and the wider UK.
Outline of duties/description of opportunity	This placement offers an opportunity to contribute to the evidence base on research capacity building in social care, as well as shaping new approaches to supporting PhD students. The candidate will: - undertake a literature review and conduct semi-structured interviews with PhD researchers - analyse qualitative data and establish how findings could shape organisational practice

	- support the dissemination of results to internal stakeholders, PhD providers, and partners across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The work will help inform Social Care Wales's future approach to supporting social care researchers and build stronger connections between PhD students, Social Care Wales and the social care workforce.
Expected output(s)/deliverable(s)	• A short evidence review on effective support programmes for PhD students and the impacts of support provision. • A summary of PhD opportunities and pathways relevant to social care research in Wales. • Semi-structured interviews with current social care PhD students in Wales. A short report synthesising the evidence gathered and making recommendations to inform future researcher support activities. This may include peer-support networks, communities of practice, training opportunities or service development. A presentation to internal colleagues and relevant external partners.
Skills and experience required for the role	The successful candidate will have a strong understanding of the social care sector and an interest in strengthening research capacity and researcher development within the field. They will have experience of reviewing and synthesising research evidence, alongside knowledge of qualitative research methods, particularly interviews. The candidate will be able to analyse and interpret data, identify key themes, and communicate findings effectively in writing and presentations. Strong organisational skills, the ability to work independently, and experience of engaging with a range of stakeholders are essential.

Please indicate which of the following skills could be developed or applied during the placement, you may select more than one.	☒ Research skills ☒ Communication skills ☒ Project management ☒ Policy understanding or engagement ☒ Collaboration / teamwork ☒ Data collection ☒ Specific methodologies (please specify): interview skills ☐ Software skills (please specify): ☒ Professional and transferable skills ☐ Other (please specify):
Support provided for the Postgraduate Researcher <i>e.g necessary resources, training, support and equipment for the student to undertake their placement</i>	- Induction training - Mentorship and line management from Research Partnerships Manager - Additional mentorship from Head of Research and Head of Knowledge Mobilisation - Microsoft Surface, including all relevant software packages - Access to Social Care Wales offices - Inclusion in team meetings and events

KEY INFORMATION	
Number of placements available:	1
Location of placement	Social Care Wales offices (hybrid)
Placement duration:	<i>Placements should be for 3 months full time or 6 months part time</i>
Full time or part-time <i>attend in a single block or spaced out over period of XXX months</i>	Part-time
Working hours or core hours	2.5 days - 26 weeks part time (alongside part-time PhD study)
In-person, online or hybrid:	Hybrid
Anticipated start date:	End of September
Security/health and safety restrictions (if relevant)	Will the postgraduate researcher need to provide a form of ID, security vetting, sign a GDPR form, etc, civil service nationality rules etc.

Language requirements (if relevant)	N/A
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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:	Yes, travel and subsistence expenses.

HOW TO APPLY	
Closing date and time for applications	28 th August 2026
How to submit an application	<i>Details of what the applicant needs to submit e.g CV, cover letter, application form etc</i> A 500 word expression of interest outlining their suitability for the role.
Recruitment process	<i>The Host Organisation is responsible for processing the applications received for this opportunity and applications will be processed as follows:</i> Submission of expression of interest, short interview (including 5 minute presentation)

