

Welsh Government

Research in Practice Project Placement Proposal

Mapping the evidence base for Cymraeg 2050 Areas of Research Interest on Welsh language use

Summary of project

The Welsh Government is offering a research placement opportunity to support the development of the evidence base for [Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers](#). The project will focus on creating a repository of evidence to address key research questions identified in the [Cymraeg 2050 Areas of Research Interest \(ARI\)](#), with particular emphasis on Theme 2 (Increasing the use of Welsh) and relevant aspects of Theme 3 (Creating favourable conditions—infrastructure and context).

The placement will provide an opportunity to work at the interface between research and policy, applying research skills to a live policy agenda. The successful applicant will identify, synthesise and communicate evidence from Wales and comparable international contexts, engage with policy officials and the research community, and help identify evidence gaps that could inform future research priorities.

The placement offers valuable experience of how evidence is used in government, while producing outputs with the potential to support Welsh language policy.

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

Mapping the evidence base for Cymraeg 2050 Areas of Research Interest on Welsh language use

The [Cymraeg 2050 Areas of Research Interest \(ARI\)](#), published in January 2026, sets out the Welsh Government's priority research questions relating to the Welsh language strategy, [Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers](#). The ARI aims to communicate to researchers, research commissioners and funders the types of evidence that would be most valuable in supporting decision-making. It is an important mechanism for ensuring that policy development and delivery are informed by robust and relevant evidence.

This project will develop a repository and map evidence for research questions identified in the ARI, focusing primarily on Theme 2: Increasing the use of Welsh, and Theme 3: Creating favourable conditions (infrastructure and context). The successful applicant will have the opportunity to work at the interface between research and policy, contributing directly to a national strategy that aims to increase the number of Welsh speakers and the use of the language across Wales.

Working closely with Welsh Government policy and research officials, the student will help build a structured picture of the current evidence base, identify emerging and ongoing research, and highlight areas where further evidence is needed. The project will involve engagement with policy colleagues to understand current priorities and discuss emerging findings, and interaction with researchers and stakeholders working in Wales and beyond.

The work will involve identifying and reviewing evidence from Wales and relevant international contexts, using a range of approaches to search research databases and other sources. The student will synthesise evidence, organise it against specific ARI questions, and develop concise, accessible summaries for policy and research audiences. Alongside identifying what is already known, the project will also seek to identify evidence gaps and emerging areas for future research.

The resulting repository will provide a valuable resource for Welsh Government officials and help strengthen the evidence base used to inform policy development.

Project objectives

The student will:

- identify and review published evidence relevant to the ARI questions
- engage with researchers and stakeholders to identify ongoing and planned work
- organise evidence by theme and ARI question in an accessible repository
- synthesise and communicate findings for policy and research audiences
- identify strengths, limitations and gaps within the existing evidence base.

Please note that these objectives may evolve as the project progresses.

Expected outputs

- A repository that categorises and summarises relevant research for policy and research officials.
- Presentations to Welsh Government officials and, potentially, contributions to wider stakeholder engagement activities.

What skills do we need

This placement offers an opportunity to develop experience of knowledge mobilisation, stakeholder engagement and policy-facing research, while contributing to work that supports the implementation of the Welsh Government's long-term vision for the Welsh language.

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

- strong literature review and evidence synthesis skills
- the ability to identify and critically assess evidence from a range of sources
- strong written communication skills, including the ability to present complex findings in an accessible way for non-specialist audiences
- strong interpersonal and networking skills, with the ability to engage effectively with researchers and other stakeholders
- an interest in the relationship between research, evidence and public policy.

Placement timescales

The placement will be for a period of 3 months. The placement is expected to start no earlier than January 2027.

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 unable 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, here are the contact details:

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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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