Ysgol Graddedigion Gwyddorau Cymdeithasol Cymru
Welsh Graduate School for the Social Sciences

Economic and Social Research Council

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	Learned Society of Wales | Cymdeithas Ddysgedig Cymru
Registered Address	The University of Wales Registry, King Edward VII Avenue, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NS
Website	https://www.learnedsociety.wales/
Brief description of the Host organisation:	The Learned Society of Wales is Wales' National Academy of Sciences, Arts and Humanities. Its mission is advancing education, learning, academic study, and knowledge will contribute to scientific, cultural, social, environmental and economic development within Wales and beyond.
Company registration Number	Registered Charity Number 1168622.

PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITY	
Placement role title: *e.g. Policy officer*	Researcher (Sustaining National Research Capability)
Background/expected impact of the project:	As the National Academy of Wales, the Learned Society of Wales is interested in knowing more about national research capacity – current and future – specifically in the Welsh context. We are interested to understand how public investment in research in Wales creates benefits for Wales beyond the research sector, as well as benefits for the wider UK. We are seeking a postgraduate researcher to carry out a synthesis of existing evidence (literature review) relating to the impacts of different modes of public investment (in

	research, innovation, or other comparable investments), particularly with regards to the balance of investment across regions and substate nations. There will be an opportunity to bring in a comparative angle through interaction with the work of the Celtic Academies Alliance. The Celtic Academies Alliance unites the Learned Society of Wales (LSW), the Royal Irish Academy (RIA), and the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) to promote collaboration, and strengthen cross-national understanding within the UK and Ireland. Together, the Celtic Academies Alliance leverages the collective expertise of these national academies to inform public policy, advance multidisciplinary research, and address shared challenges across four nations. This year, the Alliance will be running a year-long programme involving the publication of a position paper outlining propositions for policymakers and funders, and a roundtable key stakeholders to address the position paper and explore implementation of its propositions.
Outline of duties/description of opportunity	We are seeking a postgraduate researcher to gather and synthesise existing evidence from published research and policy documents. The research would be focused on the core question outlined above. Parallels may be found in research on national or regional investment strategies, and/or the direct and indirect impacts of public spending. The researcher will have scope to work independently, and shape the project based on their expertise, and the evidence they find. We anticipate that the researcher's work may contribute to a published policymaker-facing report, in which case they will be credited as an author.
Expected output(s)/deliverable(s)	• Literature review / evidence synthesis, written up as a report that is accessible for non-expert readers. • Evidence-led advice and guidance for colleagues developing a set of propositions for policymakers and funders
Skills and experience required for the role	We are seeking a social science researcher with capability to conduct desk research and a literature review. There is no expectation that the researcher should already have expertise on this very niche topic. **Skills:**

	• Interest in how public investment generates public value – directly or indirectly – particularly with regards to Place, devolution, and regions. • Experience in conducting a literature review. • Interest in writing for non-academic contexts.
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): ☐Software skills (please specify): ☒ Professional and transferable skills ☐Other (please specify):
What support will be provided for the Postgraduate Researcher *e.g necessary resources, training, support and equipment for the student to undertake their placement*	The researcher will be supported by a line manager (Head of Public Policy at the Learned Society of Wales). The researcher will have access to members of staff and Fellows of the three academies to support, inform and shape their work. The Learned Society of Wales will cover all travel expenses. The researcher will need to provide their own laptop and working space. It is not anticipated that formal training will be required.

KEY INFORMATION	
Number of placements available:	1
Location of placement	Anywhere in Wales The researcher will be required to travel occasionally to Cardiff (up to three times), and Edinburgh (up to two times). The Learned Society of Wales will cover all travel expenses.
Placement duration:	3 months FTE (up to 6 months if part-time): any working pattern can be accommodated.
Full time or part-time *attend in a single block or spaced out over period of XXX months*	Any working pattern can be accommodated.
Working hours or core hours	Any working pattern can be accommodated.

	The researcher will be encouraged to attend an event in Edinburgh in March 2027. The Learned Society of Wales will cover all travel expenses.
In-person, online or hybrid:	Mostly online. The researcher will be required to travel occasionally to Cardiff (up to three times), and Edinburgh (up to two times). The Learned Society of Wales will cover all travel expenses.
Anticipated start date:	January 2027
Security/health and safety restrictions (if relevant)	None
Language requirements (if relevant)	None

HOW TO APPLY	
Closing date and time for applications	23:59, Sunday 22nd November
How to submit an application	A CV and one-page statement.
Recruitment process	*The Host Organisation is responsible for processing the applications received for this opportunity and applications will be processed as follows:* Applications should be submitted to lsw@wales.ac.uk. The Learned Society of Wales CEO and Head of Public Policy will shortlist applications. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to conduct an informal interview via videocall. Candidates will be informed of the outcome by close of business Friday 11th December.
Contact name and email for any queries related to the placement:	Dr Fiona Dakin, Head of Public Policy fdakin@lsw.wales.ac.uk

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION	
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.	
Do you agree to uphold the principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion throughout the placement process and experience.	**Yes**/No
Does your organisation have an EDI policy?	Yes / No / **In development**

	We have a strong focus on EDI across our work, with a formal policy under development. See Equity, Diversity, Inclusion - The Learned Society of Wales and 5 Year Strategy Document.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE *WGSSS Postgraduate Researchers receive their studentship stipend whilst attending their Research in Practice placement/opportunity.* *It is expected that any travel expenses incurred during the course of the placement i.e. travelling to business meetings or placement events, will be covered by the placement host.*	
Please confirm if your organisation would be willing to contribute towards additional expenses	**Yes** / No