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	Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol Office for National Statistics
Registered Address	Government Buildings Cardiff Road Newport NP10 8XG
Website	Home - Office for National Statistics
Brief description of the Host organisation:	We are the UK's largest independent producer of official statistics and its recognised national statistical institute. We are responsible for collecting and publishing statistics related to the economy, population and society at national, regional and local levels. We also conduct the census in England and Wales every 10 years.

PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITY	
Placement role title: *e.g Policy officer*	**Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) – Real Time Industry Classifications**
Background/expected impact of the project:	***How would you measure AI in the economy?*** This is a classic example of "hidden" classification or "hidden activity", there are many such examples. The main difficulty in our example and many like it is that identifying AI companies is that they don't appear nicely in a given subset of SIC. The current 2026 SIC is used in classifying business establishments, and other statistical

	units by the type of economic activity in which they are engaged. Anecdotally, there have been press articles concerning AI expansion/investment in finance (risk assessment, fraud detection and financial analytics), healthcare (drug discovery, imaging analysis, patient data management and wellness technologies) and manufacturing & logistics (supply-chain optimisation, predictive maintenance, quality control and automation protocols). This workstream is intended to research initiatives currently in the field which are grappling with the challenges of how to effectively identify and thus measure such activities and in doing to, enable informed policy decisions. ONS are the custodians of the SIC Classification and we are looking for somebody to continue work on the report outlining the challenges and approached being developed including the Classification definitions project work which is due to start soon.
Outline of duties/description of opportunity	Our aim is to continue work on report which: • Clearly outlines the benefits and challenges of the SIC 2026 Classification. • Research and document how government, academia, commercial and international stakeholders are trying to overcome these challenges. • Provide a balanced appraisal of solutions currently in the field. • Cover any discussions on the classification definitions project
Expected output(s)/deliverable(s)	Continuation of the report circulated to and agreed by stakeholders across government.
Skills and experience required for the role	You will be part of the Classification team who work primarily on industrial and occupational classifications. Team working. Stakeholder Management Research Skills Report writing skills Extensive experience on SIC is not required, there is a wide network to support the successful applicant.
The following skills could be developed or applied during the placement	☒Research skills ☒Communication skills ☒Policy understanding or engagement ☒Collaboration / teamwork ☐☒Other (please specify): Report writing skills
Support provided for the Postgraduate Researcher whilst on placement	• All office equipment would be provided. • Overview and training of SIC Classification. • Access to current SIC knowledge base.

	• A close-knit team who are very knowledgeable about SIC Classifications. • Introductions to wider ONS colleagues within economic statistics who base their outputs on SIC. • Introductions to academia, government, commercial and government department stakeholders who are active in the space.

KEY INFORMATION	
Number of placements available:	1
Location of placement	Newport Office, home working available.
Placement duration:	3 months full time.
Full time or part-time *attend in a single block or spaced out over period of XXX months*	Full time in a single block.
Working hours or core hours	ONS operates flexible working hours.
In-person, online or hybrid:	Hybrid. There may be occasion when office attendance is required. We have suitable offices in Newport, Titchfield, and Manchester.
Anticipated start date:	8th March 2027 (sooner if at all possible)
Security/health and safety restrictions (if relevant)	None.
Language requirements (if relevant)	English

HOW TO APPLY	
Closing date and time for applications	Friday 4th December
How to submit an application	CV and a letter of application of no more than 750 words covering the skills required.
Recruitment process	Assessment of the application and informal chat with perspective candidates.
Contact name and email for any queries related to the placement:	Paul Watts | Product Owner - Classifications | Data Architecture, Linkage and Integration Division | Data Products, Services and Governance Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol +44 (0) 1633 560275