

# Welsh Government: Employment opportunities for people aged 50 and over in Wales

## Organisation/ department background

The **Welsh Government** is the devolved government for Wales, and is responsible for a wide range of policy areas including:

* education
* the Welsh language
* health
* local government
* transport
* planning
* economic development
* social care
* culture
* environment
* agriculture and rural affairs.
* tourism

The role of the Welsh Government is to make decisions on matters regarding these areas, for Wales as a whole, develop policies and implement them, and propose Welsh laws (Assembly Measures). Civil Servants in the Welsh Government serve Welsh Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers working on matters devolved to Wales.

The UK government is still responsible for certain public services in Wales, for example police, prisons and the justice system. Matters such as tax and benefits, defence, national security and foreign affairs are also dealt with by the UK Government.

Further information on the Welsh Government is available at: <http://wales.gov.uk>

The intern will be based in the **Education and Skills Research team**, working closely with social researchers, statisticians and policy professionals. The internship would provide an opportunity to apply research skills in a policy environment, further develop generic skills (such as report writing and making presentations), and to enhance policy knowledge.

More information about statistics and research at the Welsh Government:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/about/?lang=en>

## Project brief

**The aims and objectives of the project**

The **aim** of this project is to identify up to date labour market intelligence (LMI) on employment opportunities for people aged 50 and over in Wales, also looking at the gaps that exist in the evidence base.

The researcher will:

1. Undertake desk based research to identify and summarise the available evidence on employment profiles and opportunities for people aged 50 and over in Wales and the barriers in taking up that employment. This will build on previous work carried out in this area and also include an assessment of the available evidence based on its relevance and reliability. The previous work in this area should be updated / verified. This will require the use of statistical software, such as SAS/ R/ SPSS, to interrogate data sources and produce robust statistical estimates.
2. Identify the gaps which exist in the evidence base and determine priorities for filling gaps. This will provide the opportunity to work with policy officials to ensure that the prioritisation meets the needs of policy, including the Older People’s Commissioner for Wales. As part of this work, the researcher should determine whether there is a need to replicate UK / English research in Wales or whether the findings are likely to be applicable to Wales.
3. Produce recommendations, not only for what the research priorities should be going forward, but also for how the policy work could be taken forward.
4. If time allows, the researcher should work with research and statistics colleagues to begin work on filling the identified evidence gaps.

The project requires one intern for a period of up to 3 months.

**The anticipated project outcomes**

* A report setting out the available evidence and key findings and evidence gaps. This will also outline recommended priorities going forward and ways in which gaps can be filled (covering points 1-3 above).
* Presentations to analytical, policy colleagues and stakeholders on the findings of the report.
* If time allows progress to point 4 above, a handover report should be produced outlining progress to date and next steps.

**Student specification**

The student must have necessary skills to critically assess the available evidence, and identify realistic options to take this work forward. This will cover both quantitative and qualitative evidence, and it is expected that future work would also cover both of these areas.

An interest in and knowledge of this area would be an advantage, and some previous experience of research in this area would also be beneficial, but not strictly necessary.

The student will need the ability to:

* undertake a rapid evidence review,
* interrogate research/journal databases,
* assess the quality and robustness of research and summarise and structure the findings in a well-referenced and easily-readable format,
* use statistical software, such as SAS/ R/ SPSS, to interrogate data sources and produce robust statistical estimates,
* liaise with policy colleagues , other analysts and stakeholders,
* produce concise, well written documents presenting technical material in an accessible format,
* deliver effective presentations.

## Start date of Internship

## Commencing January 2018 or on a date to be negotiated.

## Security

The Welsh Government’s vetting procedures (which apply to temporary as well as permanent staff) involve the completion of a Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) application form and a Security Questionnaire for the process of security vetting to Counter Terrorist Check (CTC), Security Check (SC) and Developed Vetting (DV).

Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) requires the applicant to produce in person, 3 original forms of Identification Documents, one of which should be photographic (passport, new driving license), one document should show the current address and the third form of ID could be an utility bill, birth certificate, P45 or P60.

## Queries

Any queries relating to the project should be directed to:

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