# Renewal and Reform of Education in Wales:

# Evidence synthesis and review (x2 placements available).

# Summary

This is an exciting opportunity to do a paid work placement on a project for the Welsh Government. The project involves review and synthesis of research and literature on the impacts of the pandemic and disruption to learning, education system recovery and future resilience. The successful applicant will work closely with Welsh Government officials and stakeholders to research and develop a varied range of research outputs, and support the Welsh Government in their research process. The applicant will have the opportunity to apply research skills in a policy environment, further develop generic skills (such as report writing or making presentations), and to enhance their knowledge of research outside academia.

# The Organisation

The Welsh Government is the devolved Government for Wales with responsibility for the economy, education, health and the Welsh NHS, business, public services and the environment of Wales.

Specifically, the internship will be based within Knowledge and Analytic services (KAS). KAS carries out research and data collection and analysis for policymakers and the public in a way that accords with professional standards. They offer research and statistics expertise to understand, develop, implement, monitor and evaluate government policies. KAS also supports policy colleagues with policy development, implementation and delivery.

# The Internship

The intern will be part of the team working on evidence for the Renew and Reform Programme, [announced by the Minister for Education and Welsh Language in the Senedd on 25th May 2021](https://record.assembly.wales/Plenary/12304#A65895). The internship will provide an exciting opportunity to work at the heart of Welsh Government, and will provide an opportunity to apply research skills in a policy environment, further develop generic skills (such as report writing or making presentations), and to enhance policy knowledge.

The successful candidate will benefit from development opportunities offered centrally by the Welsh Government, potentially including mentoring, shadowing, peer support and training.

Interns will benefit from the experience of working closely with the Welsh Government:

* Gaining a better understanding of the world outside of academia and increasing employability, using their knowledge and skills to contribute to the work of the Welsh Government.
* The intern’s colleagues at the Welsh Government can offer an insight into the intern’s PhD project that can contribute to the success of their thesis’, as well as networking opportunities within the policy arena linked to their research area
* Transferable skills and knowledge
* Time management skills
* Report writing skills

# The Project

During the past 15 months, the people of Wales, and in most countries of the world, have faced unprecedented challenges. Learning and teaching have been greatly affected and the Minister for Education has set out his most urgent priority that every child and young person progresses to their full potential, in spite of the pandemic.

The Welsh Government is keen to make sure that it provides support to learners and the workforce in a way that addresses the issues that they face and targets help where it will be most effective.

The volume of social, educational and health research and analysis that has taken place, in Wales, the UK and more widely, focused on the pandemic, its impacts and effective recovery appears to have been emerging more rapidly than ever before. We need more staff to help us review, synthesise and explore this evidence, and extract and summarise the key messages from it.

**The role**

During the internship, each successful candidate will work with research and policy colleagues to identify and refine research questions for literature review. They will then independently, and/or with our librarians, conduct literature searches across a number of different literature databases, and systematically review and synthesise the identified published and grey literature to extract key messages, identifying further research questions for further searches.

With advice and support from Government Research colleagues, the intern will aim to set out their findings in reports for presentation to officials and ministers as briefings, and to publish on the [*Welsh Government Statistics and Research pages*](https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research).

# Internship responsibilities and requirements

During the internship, the students’ PhD project will be paused by their home institution. The student will be paid the equivalent of their stipend during their internship. Over and above leave policies, time for existing PhD commitments (for example, research groups, meetings and conference presentations) can be arranged on discussion with line managers.

It is anticipated that the successful applicant will be working from home during their internship. This is based on our current understanding of the situation and what is possible in terms of research work. This may change as the Covid-19 situation develops. Should the Covid-19 situation develop and allow for a return for a phased return to offices this will be discussed with successful applicants, and if the candidate wishes to continue to work mainly from home, that will be facilitated as much as possible.

The internship will last for a period of three months full-time or the part-time equivalent[[1]](#footnote-1). Applications are encouraged from part-time students. For students registered on a part-time studentship, this internship is available on a part-time basis over a longer time frame (no fewer than three days a working week), this would be negotiated between the WG 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.

Student specification

## The student must have:

* Experience of literature review and rapid evidence assessments
* Literature search skills
* Ability to support policy officials to consider and refine evidence needs and research questions
* The ability to explain research findings in clear, plain language, to a non-expert, non-academic audience.
* Presentation skills

# Start date of internship

September 2021 (exact date to be negotiated). There may be some flexibility dependent on individual circumstances.

# Funding and costs

Whilst there is currently no expectation that our interns attend their office base in central Cardiff, if this should change, reasonable travel and accommodation costs for students not normally based in Cardiff can be met if required. Requests should be consistent with Wales DTP guidelines. Applications from students requiring additional funding for travel and accommodation will not be treated less favourably. For any queries on this please contact Carole Baker at the Wales DTP on: enquiries@walesdtp.ac.uk

# 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 purpose of security vetting.

This process requires the applicant to produce in person three original forms of identification documents, one of which should be photographic (passport, new driving license), one document should showing their current address, plus one of: a utility bill, birth certificate, P45 or P60.

# Queries

Any queries relating to the post or application process should be directed to:

**Sara James**

Pennaeth Ymychwil Ysgolion/Head of Schools Research

Is-adran Ymchwil Gymdeithasol a Gwybodaeth/Social Research and Information Division

Gwasanaethau Gwybodaeth a Dadansoddi/Knowledge and Analytical Services
Llywodraeth Cymru /Welsh Government

Ffôn/Tel: 03000 256812

e-bost /e-mail: Sara.James@Gov.Wales Sara.James@Llyw.Cymru

1. Depending on availability of funding and the interns’ preferences, extensions of one, two or three months may be possible. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)