
#  Welsh Government: Identifying key predictors for Future Generations indicators using the National Survey for 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
* 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. Civil servants in the Welsh Government serve Welsh Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers working on matters devolved to Wales.

The intern will be based in the Welsh Government’s **National Survey for Wales team**, working closely with social researchers, statisticians and policy teams. The internship will provide an opportunity to gain an insight into the work of the Welsh Government, to apply research and statistical skills and to further develop generic skills such as writing for a non-technical audience.

More information on the National Survey for Wales is available [here](http://www.gov.wales/nationalsurvey).

## Background

The [Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act](http://gov.wales/legislation/programme/assemblybills/future-generations/?lang=en) is a new law that aims to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It will mean that public bodies listed in the Act will need to think more about the long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach, to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.

To make sure we are all working towards the same vision, the Act puts in place seven well-being goals. The Act places a legal requirement on the Welsh Government to set national indicators which will measure progress towards the achievement of the well-being goals. At the start of each financial year the Welsh Government must publish an annual progress report setting out the progress made over the last year against the national indicators. The list of the indicators laid before the National Assembly for Wales, can be found [here](http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/160316-national-indicators-to-be-laid-before-nafw-en.pdf).

The [National Survey for Wales](http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/?skip=1&lang=en) will be used to measure progress against many of these national indicators. The survey is a large scale, face to face survey of a random sample of over 12,000 adults a year. It provides robust information on people’s views about a wide range of issues which are of interest to the Welsh Government. The survey includes a wide range of topics such as childcare, volunteering, personal health, sport participation, culture, internet use, , use of and views on public services (e.g. health, education and local authorities), poverty, and well-being.

## Project brief

The aim of this project is to analyse the National Survey for Wales data to identify the areas where policy and service delivery could have a key role to play in influencing the wellbeing of future generation’s national indicators.

The proposed project involves carrying out regression analyses to identify the key drivers (such as demographics, income, qualifications, wellbeing, experiences and views) of outcomes against the national indicators.

The outputs will be a series of short reports similar to [this one](http://gov.wales/docs/caecd/research/2017/170301-national-survey-who-most-likely-strong-sense-community-en.pdf), following the type of approach set out in this [technical report](http://gov.wales/docs/caecd/research/2017/170413-national-survey-technical-report-approach-regression-analysis-en.pdf).

The National Survey for Wales collects information for 15 of the 46 national indicators. Data on 13 of these will be published for the first time in June 2017:

19 Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation.

23 Percentage who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area.

25 Percentage feeling safe at home, walking in the local area, and when travelling.

26 Percentage satisfied with local area as a place to live.

27 Percentage agreeing that they belong to the area; that people from different background get on well together; and that people treat each other with respect.

28 Percentage who volunteer.

29 Mean mental well-being score.

30 Percentage who are lonely.

36 Percentage who speak Welsh daily and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh.

38 Percentage participating in sporting activities three or more times a week.

The researcher will:

1. Analyse the relationships between a selection of the national indicators and other survey responses using descriptive statistics and correlation analysis. There is some flexibility over exactly which national indicators will be investigated, depending on the successful applicant’s background and interests. However there is particular policy interest in indicator 30 (Percentage who are lonely), so this indicator will definitely be part of the work.
2. Carry out logistic regression analyses to identify the key predictors for the indicators identified above when other factors are controlled for.
3. Draft a short report on the results of the regression analyses.
4. Give a presentation on the results of the project.
5. Assist the team with regression analysis on other topics, time permitting.

The internship would last for a period of around 4 months (exact length can be negotiated).

**The anticipated project outcomes**

* A set of short reports (one for each selected indicator) summarising the approach taken and the results. We are keen that the findings are presented in a simple and engaging way that is accessible to a non-technical audience, to help ensure that they are used in policy decision-making. As an example of how we have previously presented regression findings, please see the series of six “Who is more likely…” reports at <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/?tab=current&lang=en>.
* Annotated syntax for carrying out the analysis, including all data preparation work (e.g. recoding of variables).
* A presentation to analytical colleagues on the findings of the analyses.

**Student specification**

## The student must have:

* Strong data analysis skills including of regression analysis and experience of working with quantitative survey data.
* Experience in handling/manipulating data, in Stata or SPSS.
* The ability to produce cross-tabulations, well designed charts and to produce concise, well written documents presenting technical material in an accessible format.

## Start date of internship

## November 2017 (exact start date negotiable)

## 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:

Lisa Walters (lisa.walters@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Chris McGowan (chris.mcgowan@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Or you can call us on: 03000 256 685