# Citizens’ Panel Scoping

# Summary

This is an exciting opportunity to do a paid work placement on a project for the Welsh Government. The project will primarily involve exploring the feasibility of setting up a citizens’ panel for research relating to the Environment and Rural Affairs policy areas. 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 provides the collection, analysis and presentation of research and data for policymakers and the general public in keeping with professional standards. They offer independent evidence 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 Sustainable Futures research team in the Social Research and Information Division, Knowledge and Analytical Services. The internship will provide an exciting opportunity to work at the heart of Welsh Government. The internship will require working closely with policy officials and researchers, 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

The Sustainable Futures research team would like to put in place a citizens’ panel which can be used across ESNR[[1]](#footnote-1) and ERA[[2]](#footnote-2). This would be used for quantitative and possibly qualitative research across the Greener Wales theme covering topics including but not limited to climate change, Net Zero, waste and biodiversity. Over the past year research requirements from policy teams have been met by commissioning research on an ad hoc basis. The Sustainable Futures team are looking to set up a citizens’ panel as a more efficient way of conducting research for these teams. The citizens’ panel could be used to gauge public response to policy changes, gather public opinions and track how public attitudes change over time

A small amount of initial work has been done to identify three options for setting up a citizen panel. Conversations would need to be had with policy colleagues across ESNR and ERA to identify appropriate research for a citizens’ panel, and as a result of these conversations to identify which citizens’ panel option would meet the needs of the policy teams.

The student would then need to explore the relative advantages and disadvantages of each citizens’ panel option and identify which option would best suit the research requirements from the policy teams, and provide the best value-for-money.

Anticipated project outcomes:

* A series of discussions with policy colleagues across ESNR to identify what research they have which may be appropriate for a citizens’ panel
* A presentation to analytical colleagues and policy officials on the key findings and options for a citizens’ panel.
* A paper outlining the options for setting up a citizens’ panel, and a recommendation for the best value for money. This should include a summary of the evidence base for these recommendations.

# Internship responsibilities and requirements

The internship will last for three months, with the option of extension, during which time 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 can be arranged on discussion with line managers. E.g. research groups meetings and conference presentations. Applications are encouraged from part-time students.

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.

The internship will last for a period of three months full-time or the part-time equivalent. 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:

* Strong literature review skills including ability to synthesise a wide range of evidence to make it easily understandable to a non-expert audience;
* The ability to produce concise, well-written documents presenting technical material in an accessible format.
* The ability to conduct interviews and workshops to identify research requirements appropriate for the citizens panel
* The ability to evaluate different options and make recommendations based on evidence

# Start date of internship

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

# Funding and costs

Reasonable travel and accommodation costs for students not normally based in Cardiff can be met. 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 Isabella Malet-Lambert (Isabella.Malet-Lambert@gov.wales)

1. Economy Skills and Natural Resources (includes policy areas such as climate change, decarbonisation, and energy) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Environment and Rural Affairs (includes policy areas such as water and flooding, waste and resource efficiency, and food) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)