# Assessing the Impacts of Trade agreements on Consumer Prices

# Summary

This is an exciting opportunity to do a paid work placement on a project for the Welsh Government’s Trade Policy team, who are responsible for championing Wales’ interests to inform the UK Government’s trade policy agenda. The intern will work in a high priority area, contributing towards strengthening the evidence base that, in turn, will shape policy priorities and help us direct our resources most effectively. The project involves assessing the impact of trade agreements on consumer prices, enabling us to better understand the implications of trade liberalisation on consumers in Wales. 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 the trade policy team, which is embedded within the International Relations and Trade directorate of the Welsh Government. The team is responsible for producing trade policy positions for Wales based on a robust evidence base. The Trade Analysis team, a multidisciplinary team consisting of social researchers and statisticians based in Knowledge and Analytical Services (KAS), supports trade policy.

# The Internship

The intern will be part of the team developing evidence underpinning trade policy that delivers for Wales. 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

This project is intended to enhance Welsh Government’s evidence base on trade and improve our capability in assessing the potential impacts of the UK’s proposed future trading relationships on Welsh businesses and the wider economy.

Whilst the key focus of the project should be to identify the impact of tariff liberalisation on consumer prices of goods, a wider look at the impacts of non-tariff barriers should also be incorporated. To do this, a range of sources should be explored and a critical assessment provided of the evidence incorporated. Where possible, the student should seek to identify and form links with academics and experts within the field.

The outputs from this project will include a summary of the key findings from the literature review, along with a more in-depth report. A verbal presentation with policy officials and analysts will be required.

These outputs will be used to feed directly into Welsh Government’s positions on trade policy issues which will inform their discussions with the UK Department for International Trade regarding free trade agreements.

If time permits, there might be opportunities to get involved with some other aspects of the trade policy team’s work alongside the completion of this project.

Anticipated project outcomes:

* A review of the existing literature and evidence available on the potential impact of trade liberalisation on consumer prices, with some consideration of whether this impact would be relevant in Wales.
* The work should consider consumer prices of all goods should the evidence base be sufficient but it is expected that a focus on food and drink will be seen and this needs to be reported in the output.
* An assessment of the quality of the evidence available and whether there are gaps that would benefit from further research.
* A report/ paper summarising the key findings from the available evidence.
* A presentation to analytical colleagues and policy officials on the findings of the report.

# Internship responsibilities and requirements

The internship will last for three months, with the option of extension, during which time the student’s 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 remotely during their internship, with regular communication with the team using MS Teams. Access to Welsh Government offices is currently restricted, although if restrictions change, security clearance and building access could be arranged.

There will be opportunities to join in with team, unit and divisional (possibly cross-government) meetings to get a flavour of how both policy and analytical functions operate.

There are good links with analytical counterparts in other devolved administrations in Scotland and Northern Ireland, as well as in other UK Government departments such as Department for International Trade (DIT), HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

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:

* Ability to analyse qualitative and quantitative evidence
* Experience in critically assessing the quality of various sources of literature.
* The ability to produce concise, well written documents presenting technical material in an accessible format.
* Strong interpersonal and communication skills
* Reliable internet access

It would be desirable for the student to have:

* A basis understanding of economic principles, particularly related to trade and consumer prices.

# Start date of internship

January 2022 (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 David Roberts or Kate Mulready