# Research and analysis to inform Wales’ Just Transition to Net Zero evidence base

# Summary

This is an exciting opportunity to do a paid work placement for the Welsh Government, to support our programme of research and engagement on Climate change and Net Zero emissions. The successful applicant will work closely with Welsh Government officials and stakeholders to support the Government 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 intern will work in a high priority area, contributing towards strengthening the evidence base that, in turn, will shape policy priorities and help the Government direct its resources most effectively.

# 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.

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 teams with policy development, implementation and delivery.

The internship links closely with the Decarbonisation team within the Welsh Government’s Climate Change, Energy and Planning Directorate. The Decarbonisation team is responsible for ensuring the Welsh Government delivers against its decarbonisation commitments and delivery of key Government Priorities.

# The Internship

This internship is an exciting opportunity to work at the heart of government in a fast evolving and high priority topic area. The intern will be part of the team working on research and analysis relating to climate change, decarbonisation and Net Zero.

The internship will require working closely with policy officials, researchers and statisticians, 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 KAS and policy teams in the Welsh Government, such as:

* Gaining an understanding of research 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 analytical and professional skills and knowledge
* Time management skills
* Report writing and presentation skills

**The Project**

The changes driven by the need to decarbonise our economy will have impacts on industries, sectors of the workforce, and socio-economic groups in different ways, depending on the pathways and policies that the Welsh and UK Government follows, as well as wider global technological and structural shifts. This low-carbon transition presents both economic/social risks and opportunities, and the role of a just transition approach is to identify the technological, social and economic challenges of decarbonisation, and work to identify ways in which we can redress existing inequalities across communities and the Welsh workforce and prevent new ones from forming.

Achieving a just transition towards net zero will require the development of innovative policies which both decarbonise the Welsh economy and ensure the low-carbon transition is carried out in a fair and just way. This will require a detailed understanding of the impact of different policies in the Welsh context.

The aim of this project will be to produce a literature review of relevant existing evidence within Wales, the UK, and globally, on the potential impact of a wide range of different project/policy interventions in addressing just transition considerations. This research project will bring together and assess different policy interventions which relate to climate change or other environmental concerns in a way that is fair/equitable across society. It will review policies that have been delivered/trialled elsewhere, as well as considering the potential impact of policy which hasn’t yet been delivered/trialled.

The research project will assess the potential impacts of a broad range of just transition policies. Examples of policies to be explored could range from market-based interventions such as a frequent flyer tax, or subsidising low-carbon technologies, to policies resulting in major structural economic change, such as universal basic services or universal basic income.

This project will also consider the barriers to implementation and provide an assessment of which policies fall within the Welsh Government’s devolved powers, and which may require reserved UK Government action.

Likely project outcomes:

The specific work undertaken will be agreed with the Decarbonisation policy team and the Sustainable Futures research team, taking into account the skills and strengths of the successful applicant. It is anticipated the intern will undertake some of the following activities:

* Desk-based analysis (reviews of published research and policy documents, and existing data sets) and report writing;
* Novel secondary analysis e.g. thematic analysis (potentially using qualitative software) and/or statistical analysis and reporting of survey results;

Desk-based analysis and workshops and/ or meetings aimed at gaining deeper understanding and utilization of academic research and behavioral science insights

Working with the Sustainable Futures Research Team and the Climate Change Team, it is anticipated the successful interns will contribute towards:

1. A summary report and/or slide deck outlining research findings;
2. Developing and/ or refining graphic representations of findings;
3. Research scoping documents.

# Internship responsibilities and requirements

The internship will last for three months, during which time the students PhD project will be paused by their home institution. Subject to a review of requirements, the position may be extended to a total of one month. The student will be paid the equivalent of their stipend during their internship. The role is full time, however 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.

The office base for the internship will be in Cathays Park, Cardiff. However, as with the majority of Welsh Government roles, the position will be home-based for the foreseeable future, until restrictions due to the pandemic are lifted. An opportunity to work from the office base and to meet colleagues may be available in due course. Travel and subsistence expenses would be met by Wales DTP and Welsh Government.

Student specification

## The student must have:

* Ability to analyse qualitative data and quantitative data.
* Ability to synthesis qualitative and quantitative data.
* Report writing and presentation skills
* Project design and management skills
* Knowledge of survey design, methodology and sampling techniques

# Start date of internship

September 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 (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 Rhian Davies, Head of Sustainable Futures Research (Rhian.davies45@gov.wales)..