# Tech Valleys Programme Evaluation Scoping

# Summary

This is an exciting opportunity to do a paid work placement on a project for the Welsh Government. This project involves undertaking some scoping work to inform the evaluation of the Tech Valleys Programme. Tech Valleys is a £100 million Programme for Government commitment to capitalise on the opportunities of the fourth industrial revolution – support businesses, create jobs and enable the South Wales Valleys to become a globally recognised centre for the development of new technologies and cutting edge industry.

The successful intern will work closely with Welsh Government officials and stakeholders, including Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) and the Tech Valleys Strategic Advisory Group to review data and advise on the best approach to evaluation of the Programme as part of the five-year review of impact. The applicant will include the opportunity to apply research skills in a policy and delivery 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 Analytical 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 working with researchers in the Internal Research Programme (IRP), a small team undertaking in-house research and evaluation, and with the Tech Valleys team, who are responsible for the design, delivery, monitoring and reporting of the programme and individual initiatives. The internship will provide an exciting opportunity to work at the heart of Welsh Government. The intern 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 Tech Valleys programme](https://tradeandinvest.wales/regional-strengths/tech-valleys#:~:text=It%27s%20the%20first%20R%26D%20facility,and%20develop%20their%20digital%20concepts.&text=Tech%20Valleys%20is%20more%20than,attractive%20place%20to%20do%20business.) is a 10-year £100 million Programme for Government commitment. Since its launch in 2017, £37 million has been committed. The vision for the Tech Valleys programme is the creation of a vibrant, world-class high technology hotspot for Welsh-based manufacturing companies of all sizes spanning many key sub-sectors, including digital, cyber, AI, robotics, food etc., providing employment that is challenging, rewarding and valued. The programme aims to encourage the adoption of digital technologies and developing high value advanced technologies that support cutting edge industries such as 5G, battery technology and research into automotive vehicles.

Four years into the programme, a review of the programme as a whole and the individual projects within the portfolio is required to ensure the overall vision of Tech Valleys is achieved. We would therefore like to instigate a programme of monitoring to assess the impacts of investments to-date both across the Blaenau Gwent area and the wider northern South Wales valleys. The results of this work will also inform future investment decisions in the wider northern valleys region.

The internship will focus on pulling together an evaluation assessment of the Tech Valleys programme and the individual projects which form part of the portfolio. This work will inform the drafting of an evaluation specification for the entire programme.

Anticipated project outcomes:

* Review of relevant policy literature and activity under each of the projects funded under the Tech Valleys programme;
* Devising a project methodology that meets the key requirements of policy;
* Undertake a review of data availability across the Programme and advising on the extent to which progress towards achieving impacts can be evaluated using these data;
* A final report drawing together each component, suitable for publication on the Welsh Government website and presented to the Tech Valleys Strategic Advisory Group;
* Providing advice to policy colleagues on the drafting of an evaluation specification of the Tech Valleys programme.

# Internship responsibilities and requirements

The internship will last for six months, during which time the intern’s PhD project will be paused by their home institution. The intern 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, for example for research groups meetings and conference presentations. Applications are encouraged from part-time students.

It is anticipated that the intern 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 six 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

It will be beneficial for the applicant to have knowledge of the economic objectives of Welsh Government and the ethos of the Economic Action Plan, with its focus on strengthening regional economies in Wales and the importance of delivery through a partnership approach. Support will be provided by researchers in the IRP and policy officials from the Tech Valleys team.

## The intern must have:

* An understanding of the key principles and approaches to theory-based evaluation;
* Ability to synthesise quantitative data and assess data quality;
* Understanding the use of and ability to undertake qualitative research in evaluation;
* The ability to write concise but informative reports, picking out the key findings, making clear recommendations that are supported by the data, and communicate the implications of these recommendations to policy officials.

# Start date of internship

September / October 2022 (exact date to be negotiated). There may be some flexibility dependent on individual circumstances.

# Funding and costs

It may be necessary (dependent on Covid restrictions) for the intern to travel to the Tech Valleys Region which includes Blaenau Gwent and the wider Northern Valleys region. In these circumstances, reasonable travel and accommodation costs can be met in relation to the intern’s home address or the Welsh Government Cardiff Office, in line with Covid restrictions. 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 Jo Coates, Head of the Internal Research Programme (joanne.coates@gov.wales).