# Assessing the Value of Free Trade Agreements for Wales

# Summary

This is an exciting opportunity to do a paid work placement on a project for the Welsh Government. This project involves examining the additional benefits to the UK of joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), beyond the bi-lateral deals already signed with several of the key member countries. 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, trade, education, health and the Welsh NHS, business, public services and the environment of Wales. The Welsh Government is responsible for making representations to UK Government during the negotiation of trade deals, and for implementing elements of those trade deals once agreed.

The internship will be based within the Welsh Government trade policy team who are responsible for developing trade policy positions for Wales, and for engaging with UK government on their trade negotiations. Day to day management will be largely undertaken within the team, however, key analytical support will also be provided by 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 team working on evidence and analysis to support the formation of Welsh Government’s trade policy positions. The internship will provide an exciting opportunity to work at the heart of Welsh Government. The internship will require working closely with policy officials, economists 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. There will also be opportunity to build networks across several UK Government departments including the Department for International Trade and Department for Environment and Rural Affairs, as well as other devolved administrations.

The successful candidate will benefit from development opportunities offered centrally by the Welsh Government, potentially including mentoring, shadowing, peer support and training. There will also be opportunity to undertake training related to the Welsh Government Trade policy profession.

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 UK is currently in the process of acceding to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), a free trade agreement (FTA) between Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam. Whilst the [UK government’s own assessment](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1027860/dit-cptpp-uk-accession-strategic-approach.pdf) indicates that doing so would produce long-term increases in the UK’s GDP, trade, welfare and wages, there is some uncertainty around the scale of the additional benefits given that the UK already has bi-lateral deals with a number of the key member countries, such as Australia, New Zealand and Japan. The aim of the project is to provide a high quality assessment of the additional benefits the UK may reap from joining the CPTPP, beyond those available from bi-lateral deals. This work is needed to improve the trade policy team’s understanding of the key issues associated with CPTPP, which in turn will inform the Welsh Government’s trade policy position. The findings from this work will be reflected in Welsh Government’s discussions with the UK Department for International Trade (DIT). The high-profile nature of this work, along with the speed at which UK government are aiming to accede to CPTPP, means that this project is highly time-sensitive to ensure the impact of the outputs are maximised.

Anticipated project outcomes:

* A comprehensive literature review pulling together relevant global evidence on the likely impacts of joining CPTPP.
* High quality analysis of the negotiated chapter texts for CPTPP to aid an understanding of what the UK is proposing to sign up to. This analysis should be replicated to reflect the terms of the bi-lateral agreements the UK already has in place with individual member countries. Finally, the terms of each agreement should be compared with that being proposed for CPTPP and an assessment made of the additional value to the UK of acceding to CPTPP. Where possible, consideration should also be given to the threats and opportunities associated with UK membership in terms of other countries acceding to CPTPP in future.
* A technical report which would include the following;
	+ A review of what the wider global evidence can tell us about the likely impacts of joining CPTPP.
	+ A discussion of the chapter text assessment for CPTPP and how this differs from that available to the UK through its bi-lateral deals with key member countries. Within this, an assessment of the legal impact of CPTPP on domestic legislation would ideally be included, (dependent on the skills and experience of the successful applicant).
	+ A summary of the results of the analysis.
* A presentation to analytical colleagues and policy officials on the findings of the report.
* Documentation of the process so that the work can be replicated in future.

# Internship responsibilities and requirements

The internship will last for three months, with the option of extension of no more than an additional three months, 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 work in a hybrid way between home and a Welsh Government office during their internship. This may change depending on Welsh Government policy. Any changes to working arrangements 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:

* Experience of identifying and analysing high quality qualitative evidence from a range of sources.
* A positive approach to working both independently, with policy and analytical colleagues.
* Experience of analysing large volumes of complex technical information in an efficient way.
* The ability to produce concise, well written documents presenting technical material in an accessible format.

# Start date of internship

April 2023 (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 show 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 Llinos Jenkins (Economic Adviser, Trade Policy), Llinos.jenkins005@gov.wales