#  Research into the current demand for and supply of immigration advice services in Wales

# Summary

This is an exciting opportunity to do a paid work placement on a project for the Welsh Government. The European Transition Team has identified evidence gaps in the area of immigration advice services. The project aims to understand the current demand for and supply of immigration advice services across Wales in relation to both businesses and individuals. This project will contribute to informing future work on the development of migration advice services and future support for businesses in Wales, together with comprising a key component of the Welsh Government’s Programme for Government commitment to progress the Economic Mission – and to address the ageing workforce challenge. 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 European Transition Team, supported by the Government Social Research (GSR) team in the Communities and Tackling Poverty department. GSR 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. GSR also supports policy colleagues with policy development, implementation and delivery.

# The Internship

The intern will be part of the team working on migration policy and economic resilience. The internship will provide an exciting opportunity to work at the heart of the 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 Economic Ministerial Advisory Board has identified migration as a priority area of future focus and at its workshop of July 2022 made six migration related suggestions as areas for further consideration by the Welsh Government – including work on considering migration advice services and future support for businesses. The Economic Ministerial Advisory Board’s work is a key component of the Welsh Government’s Programme for Government commitment to progress the Economic Mission – and to address the ageing workforce challenge.

The project will involve carrying out a mapping of the demand for immigration advice services among businesses and individuals in Wales, and an assessment of the extent to which currently available immigration advice services meet this demand. An evidence base will need to be compiled comprising a review of the current immigration advice services available in Wales, fieldwork involving Welsh businesses, individuals and migrant support providers, and responses submitted to a proposed Welsh Government call for evidence.

The role will involve:

1. Undertaking a desk based review of current literature on immigration advice services available to and required by businesses and individuals in Wales.

2. Conducting primary qualitative research to collect relevant information from businesses, individuals and migrant support providers via interviews/focus groups/workshops.

3. Analysing responses to a public consultation on the topic of immigration advice services available to and required by businesses and individuals in Wales.

4. Collating and appraising evidence collected via the literature review, primary qualitative research and consultation to write a report on key findings and recommendations.

Anticipated project outcomes/outputs:

* High quality data and analysis to aid an understanding of the project
* A literature review
* Questions/topics for discussion at interviews/focus groups/workshops
* Thematic analysis of consultation responses
* A short, publishable report, focusing on presentation of findings in terms, accessible to non-specialists rather than on technical detail.
* A presentation to policy officials on the findings of the report and the recommendations as an outcome.

# Internship responsibilities and requirements

The internship will last for six months 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 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 Welsh Government 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:

* The ability to conduct a literature review
* Experience in conducting interviews/focus groups/workshops
* The ability to analyse qualitative data
* The ability to conduct thematic analyses
* The ability to produce concise, well written documents presenting technical material in an accessible format.

# Start date of internship

April/May 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 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 Steven Macey (Steven.Macey@gov.wales).