# Wellbeing and the Historic Environment

# Summary

This is an exciting opportunity to do a paid work placement on a project for the Welsh Government. The focus of the project is to understand the links between the historic environment and the wellbeing of individuals and communities, and to suggest ways of collecting data to evaluate wellbeing gains from historic environment projects.

The successful applicant will work closely with Welsh Government officials and stakeholders to develop a varied range of research outputs 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 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 successful candidate will be working closely with Cadw, the Welsh Government’s historic environment service, as well as liaising with the sector more widely.

By understanding how the historic environment contributes to wellbeing, we can help to ensure that it contributes towards national goals – including the some of the ten priorities set out in the Welsh Government’s well-being statement and the actions in the Anti-Racist Wales action plan. Specifically, the research will work side-by-side with the development of the Culture Strategy for Wales, allowing the wellbeing benefits of the Historic Environment to be better understood and better evidenced. This will allow everyone who works in the sector to design projects and interventions to maximise benefits.

As social prescribing gathers momentum, knowing more about the wellbeing impacts of the historic environment will also allow the sector to contribute meaningfully to the conversation and secure adequate resources to allow us to develop impactful projects.

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

# Wellbeing and the Historic Environment

*Background*

**The historic environment is the physical manifestation of Wales’ cultural heritage.**

It includes:

* historic buildings
* ancient monuments, such as castles, abbeys, standing stones and industrial remains
* shipwreck sites
* archaeological sites
* historic parks, gardens and landscapes
* World Heritage Sites

All of these make up the landscapes and seascapes around us, contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place.

We believe that the historic environment makes a substantive contribution towards the wellbeing of individuals and communities, enhancing quality of life. Wellbeing outcomes may be at an individual or community level, and could result from varying levels of engagement with the historic environment.

There is a limited, but growing, body of evidence linking the historic environment and wellbeing. However there is little which is specific to Wales, and which also considers the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, and the contribution which the historic environment can make towards the stated goals.

Anticipated project outcomes:

A final report, including;

1. A literature review, finding, distilling and summarising the information which is available about the connections between wellbeing and the historic environment. This may be evidence directly related to wellbeing, or it may be implicit and contained within other information sources.
2. A gap analysis, identifying those areas where there is little or no evidence for the historic environment contributing to individual and/or community wellbeing – particularly in a Welsh context
3. An accessible summary of the research, suitable for a general audience.
4. Recommendations for ways to measure the wellbeing impacts of the historic environment, in a Welsh-specific context
5. Stakeholder consultation on the recommendations to scope feasibility of future data collection.

# Internship responsibilities and requirements

The internship will last for six months, with the option of extension, 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 six months full-time or part-time. 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:

* Be experienced in undertaking literature reviews and synthesising data to draw meaningful conclusions;
* Assess the quality of both quantitative and qualitative data already collected by historic environment organisations in Wales and identify gaps;
* Draw conclusions and recommend the best approach to improving data collection;
* Produce a well written report that presents key findings in an accessible, concise and engaging 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 Polly Groom polly.groom@gov.wales