



Curriculum for Wales synthesis of evidence to inform policy

Summary

This is an exciting opportunity to do a paid work placement on a project for the Welsh Government in a high profile policy area. The focus of the project is a synthesis of evidence relating to the curriculum reforms in Wales. The successful applicant will work closely with Welsh Government officials and stakeholders to identify and synthesise relevant evidence to support the Welsh Government's evaluation and policy development activities. 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 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 a small team undertaking the evaluation of the curriculum and assessment reforms. 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

Curriculum for Wales synthesis of evidence to inform policy

Background

[The Curriculum for Wales \(CfW\)](#) is the cornerstone of the Welsh Government's efforts to reform education in Wales and build an education system that raises educational standards and enjoys public confidence.

The Welsh Government has committed to undertaking a rigorous and transparent evaluation of our curriculum reforms. There are a number of studies in development that are being designed to specifically answer research and evaluation questions about how the reforms are working and to examine the extent to which they are having the desired impact for all learners, regardless of their background or needs.

However, curriculum reform is a wide-reaching change which will fundamentally change the experiences of learners, teachers and schools. We are keen to ensure that other data sources/evaluation plans are aligned properly with the CfW evaluation to ensure that we have a coherent understanding of education reforms more widely. These will be especially important to provide information on progress in the short term before the larger, CfW-specific studies produce findings.

These include administrative datasets, national participation and attainment data, education survey data, Estyn inspection evidence and ad hoc research and evaluation studies. These data sources are managed by a variety of organisations including Welsh Government and other education stakeholders. For some data sources, regular data, reports or statistical bulletins are published although some of the sources are not routinely published.

During the summer each year, the Welsh Government produces a Curriculum for Wales [annual report](#). This report sets out progress and achievements to date, and our priorities for the next year from September. We wish this to be as informed as possible by the breadth of available evidence. The aim of this project will therefore be to produce (i) a synthesis plan in the first instance, identifying relevant evidence sources and specifying timings when sources are available, both during the period of the internship and looking further ahead, and (ii) a synthesis summarising the findings from available evidence to inform policy officials' thinking in advance of drafting.

Anticipated project outcomes:

- A synthesis plan identifying relevant data sources and specifying timings when sources are available, both during the period of the internship and looking further ahead
- Synthesising available evidence relevant to implementation and early outcomes of the curriculum and assessment reforms
- Development and refinement of report
- A presentation of the findings to relevant policy teams.

Internship responsibilities and requirements

The internship will last for 6 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 6 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:

- The ability to discuss with policy team to understand their needs and to carry out desk research
- Strong literature review and evidence appraisal skills, including ability to synthesise a wide range of evidence.
- Ability to produce concise, well written documents, presenting complex evidence in an accessible format.

Start date of internship

Autumn 2024, (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 WGSSS 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 WGSSS on: enquiries@wgsss.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 Anna Allen Jones anna.allenjones001@gov.wales