



SGSSS-SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP SCHEME PROJECTS STARTING APRIL 2019 ONWARDS

Application Deadline: Friday 18 January 2019 at 5pm

The Scottish Government is the devolved government for Scotland and has a range of responsibilities that include: the economy, education, health, justice, rural affairs, housing, environment, equal opportunities, consumer advocacy and advice, transport and taxation.

Government social science research aims to provide high quality evidence and advice for Ministers and Scottish Government officials to inform policy development, implementation and evaluation. Analysts in government help generate new ideas and open debate, challenge assumptions, beliefs and attitudes, test policy ideas and develop a deeper understanding of issues as they affect Scotland.

The core functions of researchers in government include:

- the interpretation of evidence and the provision of research based advice
- engaging with the academic and wider research community to bring expert knowledge into the policy making process
- commissioning external research projects
- undertaking research such as reviews of the existing evidence base
- disseminating research findings and encouraging their wider use

There are internships available with social research, economist, statistician or mixed teams. All tend to work alongside each other in 'Analytical Services Divisions' in the Scottish Government.

The Office of the Chief Researcher (OCR) in the Scottish Government is responsible for central co-ordination of this internship scheme.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND HOW TO APPLY

What is an Internship?

An internship is a non-salaried work placement. The SGSSS-Scottish Government Internship Competition gives current SGSSS students (all students registered for a PhD degree in Scotland, however funded) the opportunity to apply to undertake an internship within an external organisation.

Please note that these internships present opportunities to work outside the topic area of a student's PhD to develop a range of transferable skills, enhance employability and provide the experience of working within a public sector organisation. Please do not apply if you are only seeking to have experience in your own PhD topic. You are better to organise your own internship in this case.

Working arrangements

All internships are on a full-time working basis for **three months** (13 weeks). A monthly stipend equivalent to the ESRC standard maintenance stipend will be paid to students on internships.

All internships will be based in core Scottish Government Directorates or their agencies and be based in Edinburgh or Glasgow unless indicated by the project. Please see the separate SGSSS “Additional Information” document which provides guidance on travel and accommodation reimbursement.

Successful applicants and their University supervisor will be asked to sign an agreement document prior to commencing their internship, covering administrative details such as procedures for annual leave, etc.

Eligibility

All SGSSS postgraduate students registered for a PhD in Scotland (however funded) are invited to apply for the projects described below provided they:

- meet civil service nationality criteria (see below for further details);
- are undertaking their PhD in a social science discipline¹;
- are in the second or third year of their PhD;
- are, at the time of application, in full time study (or part time but able to commit to a full-time internship).

The internships will start no earlier than **April 2019**. If successful all students will take an interruption of studies so that they are not eligible for fees during the internship. Research supervisors need to give permission for students to apply for these opportunities. Successful applicants will receive the equivalent of a standard ESRC maintenance stipend for the three months while on internship.

All provisionally selected candidates will be required to undergo pre-employment checks as a condition of taking up the Internship. This requires having a valid Disclosure Certificate. Obtaining a Disclosure Certificate can take several weeks. Successful candidates should apply for a certificate as soon as possible. The cost of a certificate can later be claimed back as part of Travel and Subsistence expenses.

In order to work for the civil service, including as part of an internship, an individual must meet **nationality criteria** set out in the Civil Service Nationality Rules. Detailed guidance is available on the Civil Service web pages at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-rules>. All applicants must ensure that they can meet these criteria in order to be eligible to undertake internships with the Scottish Government. Please clearly state your nationality/dual nationality on the application form.

Unfortunately, due to the nature of the scheme and UKBA regulations, students on a Tier 2 or a Tier 4 visa are not eligible to apply for internships.

¹ Please check the SGSSS website for [Pathway information](#) which specifies the disciplines we cover. Students studying on health pathway can apply even if funded by MRC/CSO as health is one of our interdisciplinary pathways

How to apply

Applicants should submit an **online application form** available on the SGSSS website, which includes space for a statement of support from your principal supervisor, along with a **two-page CV**.

The deadline for applications is **5pm on Friday 18 January 2019**.

Applicants are free to apply **for up to four preferred project choices** with the Scottish Government, and it is helpful to rank them in order of preference. Students may also apply for inclusion in a **'pool'** if they wish to be considered for other unfilled advertised projects or others which may later arise in any area of the Scottish Government, to maximise chances of obtaining an internship. Including as much information as possible about their social science skills set will help to match those students unsuccessful with their initial choices with possible alternative placements.

You should clearly indicate whether the application is for a specific project and/or for inclusion in the general pool. Although you can apply for more than one internship, candidates can only undertake one internship. Past SGSSS interns may still be eligible to undertake a further internship.

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their applications and areas of interest by telephone with the Scottish Government contact (listed under each internship) in advance of submitting their application. If there are questions about the scheme as a whole please contact Richard Kay (SG) or Sheena Cummings SGSSS (details below).

Students are encouraged to carefully consider the information requested in the application form and pay particular attention to setting out their expertise in particular research methods to address the desired skills listed. Applicants are usually not required to have academic experience in the policy area of the internship unless specified in the project description. As stated above, SGSSS strongly encourages students to choose opportunities to work *outside* the area of their PhD topic in order to gain wider experience.

Selection process

Interns will be selected by the SGSSS on the basis of their written application. An informal telephone discussion with applicants may also be held before final allocation of internships. It can take some time to work with the Scottish Government hosts to place applicants so we may not be in touch for approximately 4 weeks after the deadline. Sometimes the SGSSS will inform you of the success of your application and sometimes the Scottish Government host will contact you to offer you a place or to seek further information from you. If you have not heard back from us within 6 weeks of the deadline then please contact SGSSS on the email below.

Additional information

The Scottish Government Internship Scheme Manager is Rik Kay, Office of the Chief Researcher email Enquiries.SG-SGSSS.interns@gov.scot (0131-244-1624) and the SGSSS contact is Sheena Cummings, email team@sgsss.ac.uk

For more information about analytical services in the Scottish Government see:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Economy>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/Statistics-in-Scotland>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Research/About/Social-Research>

See also the UK Government sites for the analytical professions: [Government Economic Service](#), [Government Statistical Service](#) and [Government Social Research](#).

Reporting Requirements

Once the internship has finished, students are required to submit to the SGSSS (within 6 weeks) an End of Internship Report outlining the project in which they were involved and providing feedback on their experience of working in the Scottish Government. We also expect that interns are willing to take up opportunities to speak to other students about their experience e.g. at the SGSSS Summer School.

THE INTERNSHIPS

There are 24 advertised internship projects available, in addition to the 'pool'. See table below.

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DIRECTORATE GENERAL: DGE CJ
Directorate: DEAS
Division/Team: Children and Families

Internship 01: Growing Up In Scotland : Longitudinal analysis of wellbeing

Policy Context:

Giving children the best start in life and providing them with the support they need to ensure they fulfil their potential is a key priority for the Scottish government. To achieve this ambition requires strong evidence on children's outcomes to provide a thorough understanding of what helps promote wellbeing.

Project details

The Growing Up In Scotland study is a longitudinal study tracking the lives of children and their families living in Scotland. Since its inception in 2005, the study has followed three cohorts of children: two from the age of 10 months, and one between the ages of 3 and 6 . It is Scotland's key source of evidence to help understand children's wellbeing outcomes

The project will use data from the study in a longitudinal framework to investigate the drivers of wellbeing and the factors that promote resilience in the face of adversity. Wellbeing is understood as a broad concept encompassing a range of domains and taking a holistic view of the child's or young person's circumstances and quality of life. In the Scottish Government approach, it is described by eight wellbeing indicators: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. The project will focus on one or more of the domains represented by these indicators depending on the policy interest at the time and taking into account the applicant's background knowledge and skills. The data available for the project will extend up to age 12 for the oldest cohort in the study.

This project offers an excellent opportunity to apply advanced quantitative skills in developing and communicating research messages for policy and practice

Skills required

Quantitative skills and ability to undertake longitudinal analysis
Good communication and organisational skills
Presenting data in a clear and engaging way

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Ganka Mueller
Enquiries to email: ganka.mueller@gov.scot
Telephone: 0131 244 4373

DIRECTORATE GENERAL: Education, Communities and Justice
Directorate: Housing and Social Justice
Division/Team: Communities Analysis Division / Equality and Social Justice Analysis

Internship 02: Evaluation of Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland's support for welfare advice services

Policy Context:

Since 2004, the Scottish Government has funded Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland to develop, organise and deliver training, information and casework support to advisers and other frontline workers in order to increase their capacity to give accurate and effective advice and information to low-income households on their benefit entitlements. The overarching aim of this support is to tackle poverty by improving the quality of advice made available to low income households and, therefore, helping maximise potential income.

CPAG in Scotland provides a dedicated welfare rights advice service as part of its overall work to develop and campaign for policy solutions to end child poverty. The service provides information (including handbooks and factsheets), casework support via email and telephone, and face to face and online training to frontline advisers and support staff working with families across Scotland. Beneficiaries of the service include welfare rights advisers, solicitors, student advisers, housing staff, health workers, family support staff, social workers and social security staff. In addition, in order to identify emerging issues with the policy and delivery of social security, CPAG in Scotland analyses evidence through its separately funded Early Warning System. Drawing evidence from their casework support and training service, and directly from frontline advisers, the Early Warning System uses evidence gathered to inform local and national policy makers and service providers.

This research is a follow up to a previous evaluation in 2011, and aims to consider the effectiveness of the current services and recent developments. The intern will work closely with researchers in the Equality and Social Justice team, policy advisors working on advice services, and CPAG in Scotland.

Project details

The aim of the research project is to inform the delivery and development of CPAG's specialist support for welfare advice services by providing evidence on what is working well in the service and identifying any areas for improvement or development. The overarching aims of the research are therefore to:

- Assess the impact the advice service has on the capacity of front line agencies to provide better advice, and in keeping policy makers and service providers informed on the impacts of welfare reforms on devolved policies and services;
- Identify evidence of "what works" to inform future investment;
- Identify and respond to key areas for improvement and future development, including in improving measurement of outcomes and impact.

It is anticipated that the project will involve two main components:

- **Analysis of monitoring and evaluation data collected by** CPAG to provide insight into, for example: how widely used CPAG's services are, who the various services are reaching, advisors' and frontline workers' views on the services and the impact services have on their level of knowledge and ability to provide accurate advice, areas for improvement.

- **Primary data collection with a sample of e.g. service managers, advisors and frontline support staff** to provide more in depth insight into their views on, for example: awareness/accessibility of services, topics covered and where additional support is needed, impact of services, support for accreditation to National Standards, future needs.

With support from researchers in the team, the intern will analyse relevant monitoring data, set up and conduct interviews or focus groups, and produce a final report of the project's findings. This project will provide an excellent opportunity to work with several teams within Scottish Government (both policy and analytical) as well as CPAG in Scotland, gain further experience in a range of social research methods, and to have an impact on the future development of support for welfare advice services.

Skills required

The project will require a range of broad social research skills, including analysis of a range of quantitative and qualitative monitoring data; understanding and experience of qualitative data collection methods; the ability to communicate research findings clearly and concisely; the ability to relate to busy third sector stakeholders. Some knowledge on the topic of poverty would be an advantage.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries: Catriona Rooke

SG Analytical Sponsor: Catriona Rooke

Enquiries to email: catriona.rooke@gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 244 3110

Internship 03: Understanding the impact of recent legislative changes to the private rented sector in Scotland

Policy Context:

Housing is a key policy area for the Scottish Government, and there is a need to address increasing house prices, a rise in rental prices and homelessness. Providing more homes and more affordable homes is at the centre of the Scottish Government's agenda. The 'Homes Fit for the 21st Century' and 'Housing Beyond 2021' strategies aim at providing a warm, affordable and accessible home to all in Scotland and support the most disadvantaged.

The private rental sector (PRS) in Scotland has changed dramatically over the last 15 years. The proportion of the population who rent privately has tripled in this period, with a huge growth in the number of younger people, including those with families, now calling the PRS their home. A number of landmark changes have been recently introduced in Scotland to ensure that the sector can meet the needs of the growing number of households that now reside there. These changes have been heralded as the biggest for a generation, and a 'huge step forward for tenants'. As a result, there is great interest in the impacts of this legislation from stakeholders in both Scotland and other regions/countries who may want to make similar changes.

The most important change is the **new private residential tenancy** – a mandatory tenancy agreement that removes both fixed term contracts and 'no fault' evictions, as well as limiting when and how rents can be increased. This is intended to give tenants greater security as well as the confidence to challenge landlords' bad practice through the newly expanded Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service. We will provide initial reading material regarding the PRS and Housing in Scotland to help the intern become more familiar with the topic.

Project details

Analysts within the Scottish Government are in the early stages of a project to understand the implementation and impact of the above new legislative changes on those living in the PRS. The intern will contribute to this important project, which aims to firstly identify the potential and theoretical impacts of the changes as a whole and on specific groups of the population, and then measure these impacts. The intern will gather and generate information on the implementation and outcomes of the changes, as well as on the intended and unintended consequences of the new private residential tenancy. In particular, we are interested in the impact of this change on **families with children** (as part of wider attempts to tackle child poverty) and any differential impact for **ethnic minority groups**. The evidence gathered will then be used to help inform future developments in PRS regulations.

There is scope for flexibility within this internship but the programme of work may include:

- Reviewing the current literature of the PRS both in Scotland and internationally
- Identifying gaps in our knowledge
- Designing future and potential research projects to fill any evidence gaps
- Carrying out primary research or secondary data analysis to assess progress against intended and unintended outcomes

This internship is an opportunity to contribute to important analytical work in a new policy environment, which will be used widely by social researchers, policy makers and stakeholders in the near future. The work will have an impact on how and what information is collected on

this topic, and help ensure that we can draw robust conclusions about the impact of the recent legislative changes.

The internship will be based in the **Housing and Regeneration social research team** within the Communities Analysis Division, with support from economists and statisticians from the wider unit. During the duration of the internship, the intern will have an opportunity to work as part of a Scottish Government team of social researchers, and work closely with policy makers. The team will provide support and guidance throughout the internship and ensure that the intern is developing the skills required by the project and feels part of the wider unit. The intern will also have the opportunity to liaise with academics and other expert stakeholders, as well as design future research and information gathering exercises.

Skills required

- Experience in searching, reviewing, critically evaluating, interpreting, summarising and synthesising evidence and research findings from different sources
- Report writing, i.e. the ability to write for different audiences and in 'plain English'.
- Ability to analyse qualitative or quantitative data

Desirable skills

- Knowledge of monitoring and evaluation methods, with an understanding of approaches to measuring the impact and outcomes of policies or events

Skills developed during the internship

- Knowledge of the Scottish PRS, including relevant data sources and key publications
- A good understanding of approaches for measuring policy impacts and outcomes
- Working closely with social research and policy teams within the Scottish Government
- Experience planning/conducting research/analysis in a new policy area

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Sarah Newton, Sarah.Newton@gov.scot, 0131 244 5504

Internship 04: Active Scotland Outcomes Framework - Well-being and resilience in communities through physical activity and sport

Policy Context:

The [Active Scotland Outcomes Framework](#) describes the six outcomes the Scottish Government and a range of partner organisations are seeking to achieve through their work to encourage and support people in Scotland to be physically active. The [Active Scotland Delivery Plan](#) sets out the wide range of actions that we and our partners are taking to ensure that everyone in Scotland has opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity.

We are measuring and reporting our progress through a range of indicators which support each of the Active Scotland outcomes. A substantial revision and expansion of the indicator set was completed last year by the Evidence Sub-group of the National Strategic Group on Physical Activity and Sport, and the first data for the revised set will be published in late 2018.

Project details

The Evidence Sub-group highlighted the lack of suitable national data to assess progress towards one for one of the six outcomes, namely '*We support well-being and resilience in communities through physical activity and sport*', and recommended that further work should be carried out to identify potential ways to fill the gap. The outcome relates to the ambition to support physical/mental health and wellbeing through community engagement in physical activity and sport, through building social connections and a sense of community.

We are therefore seeking an intern to help compile an evidence base on the contribution of physical activity and sport to community resilience and wellbeing, and identify options for robust measurements to assess progress towards achieving this outcome.

The aim of this project is threefold:

- (1) to review and summarise key evidence on the benefits of physical activity and sport to social and community development
- (2) to identify measures from existing surveys in Scotland, the rest of the UK or internationally, which measure the contribution of physical activity and sport to social and community development
- (3) to put forward options for new data collection to measure progress towards achieving this outcome.

The outputs of the project will be a brief evidence review and a measurement options paper.

The project offers an excellent opportunity to work with analysts and policy makers in the Scottish Government, and to gain an understanding of the contribution of social research and evidence to policy making. No previous experience in the substantive topic area is required.

Skills required

- essential – strong written and oral communication skills
- essential – ability to critically assess evidence quality in research studies and national surveys

- essential – ability to work independently and flexibly as part of a team
- desirable – ability to translate research evidence into recommendations for policy-making

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Mariela Fordyce

Enquiries to email: mariela.fordyce@gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 244 2805

Internship 05: Analysis of free-text comments from the 2018 Scottish Cancer Patient Experience Survey

Policy Context:

The Scottish Cancer Patient Experience Survey (SCPES) is one of four national postal surveys that make up the Scottish Care Experience Survey Programme. The surveys inform NHS Scotland and local services about people's experiences of a range of health and social care services and this is used to drive local improvement to enhance the quality of services.

SCPES asks individuals across Scotland about their experience of cancer care and is jointly funded by Scottish Government and Macmillan Cancer Support. The first SCPES was run in 2015 and a second iteration of the survey is currently in the field. The survey is directly supported by the Scottish Government's Cancer Strategy - 'Beating Cancer: Ambition and Action'² and is a vital source of data on experience of cancer care in Scotland.

Project details

It is expected that we will receive around 7,000 free-text comments in total, across six free-text boxes included throughout the 2018 SCPES. Currently NHS Boards are provided with the comments for their area only, alongside the quantitative results, which they use to identify areas for improvement. However, the free-text comments provide valuable context to the quantitative data collected through the survey, as well as highlighting other topics that have impacted individuals' experiences that are not covered by the closed questions. We are therefore seeking to undertake an overall analysis of the free-text comments, which will provide an important overview of this data.

The focus of this internship is to analyse the free-text comments from the 2018 SCPES and disseminate the findings. This would likely involve:

- Reviewing and coding the free-text comments based on key topics or themes;
- Triangulating findings with those of the quantitative survey results;
- Help identify potential policy implications or service improvement opportunities in line with relevant policy priorities;
- Develop a publication ready report of the findings, including appropriate data visualisations;
- Present the findings to key survey stakeholders.

² <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/03/9784>

NVIVO software can be made available to assist with the coding of the free text comments, however, it should be noted that there is scope for the intern to use alternative software / methods to code the free-text comments. The intern will also need to consider how best to display the findings of the analysis and present these to key survey stakeholders.

More information on the Scottish Cancer Patient Experience Survey is available at www.gov.scot/CancerSurvey.

We would invite expressions of interest from students with an interest in applying their social science knowledge and experience, both qualitative and quantitative, in the area of health, particularly in relation to cancer care. This internship will be based in Edinburgh.

Skills required

This project would suit someone who is keen to apply their skills to a practical project focused on health policy implementation. Knowledge of the health and social care landscape would be useful but excellent analytical skills are more important than any prior subject knowledge. The following are required:

- Strong written and oral communication skills;
- Wide experience of the use of social research methods, including analysis of large volumes of qualitative data;
- An ability to work independently and flexibly as part of a team.

Please detail the full range of your research and analytical skills in your application and indicate particular strengths.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries

SG Analytical Sponsor: Louise Cuthbertson

Enquiries to email: Louise.Cuthbertson@gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 244 7552

Internship 06: Social Research for Realistic Medicine

Policy Context:

This project offers an exciting opportunity to be involved in the early stages of developing the evidence base for the implementation of Realistic Medicine, working closely with policy, analytical and clinical colleagues. You will work with the Realistic Medicine Policy team, a social researcher and the Deputy Chief Medical Officer to help evaluate a work stream of the Realistic Medicine Delivery Plan.

The Chief Medical Officer's vision is that:

'By 2025, everyone who provides healthcare in Scotland will demonstrate their professionalism through the approaches, behaviours and attitudes of Realistic Medicine'

The ethos of realistic medicine is based on:

- listening to patients
- sharing decision making between healthcare professionals and their patients
- ensuring patients have the information to make an informed choice
- moving away from the 'doctor knows best' culture
- reducing the harm and waste caused by unnecessary procedures and treatments
- identify and reduce unwarranted variation in clinical practices

The Chief Medical Officer's latest report, *Practising Realistic Medicine*, aims to help the discussion about Realistic Medicine move on - to take it from a set of guiding principles to providing practical advice, guidance and examples of how we can make practising Realistic Medicine the way we "do" healthcare in Scotland.

There is a strong commitment to social research and analysis which engage individuals in our approach to knowing whether and how Realistic Medicine is being practised.

The report can be accessed here: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00534374.pdf>

Project details

The specific requirements will depend on the stage of implementation of the Realistic Medicine Delivery Plan at the time you take up post, but it is likely to involve work to develop examples of good practice, reviewing the evidence in relation to the Realistic Medicine principles or evaluating specific aspects of the delivery plan in relation to reducing unwarranted variation and strengthening relationships between healthcare professional and service users. The project will offer the opportunity to be involved in a strategic and cross cutting policy area and gain insight into the role of social research in government.

Skills required

- Strong written and oral communication skills;
- Knowledge and experience of a range of research methods;
- An understanding of how to turn evidence requirements into clear research questions and to develop research strategies to answer these;
- An ability to analyse and synthesise varied data and evidence;
- An ability to work independently and flexibly as part of a team.

Relevant experience in a health related area is preferred and the project can be tailored to the skills of the applicant. Please detail the full range of your research and analytical skills in your application and indicate particular strengths.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Alix Rosenberg

Enquiries to email: Alexandra.Rosenberg@gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 244 3769

Internship 07: International Futures Internship

Policy Context:

The International Futures division invites expressions of interest from students with an interest in applying their social science knowledge and experience to support analytical projects related to External Affairs.

You will be based in the International Futures division, in Victoria Quay, Edinburgh. This division sits within the wider Directorate for External Affairs. The Directorate leads on engaging at home and internationally to enhance Scotland's reputation and increase sustainable economic growth, pursue our interests overseas and strengthen our international relationships and partnerships. The division's work includes:

- Exploring options to support the SG's preparations for further improving international engagement, enhancing Scotland's diplomatic reach and reputation within current constitutional powers and;
- Advising Ministers and SG colleagues on how, in the wake of the UK Government's decision to leave the EU, Scotland can build strong future relationships with the EU, other international institutions, organisations, states and regions.

There are currently nine permanent members of staff in the International Futures team with from a variety of backgrounds and government experience. You will be based within a supportive and collegiate team environment and will have the opportunity to work in an exciting policy area in an important year for the Scottish Government.

Project details:

The main project is to conduct a literature review and analysis of non-state and cross-border regional soft power methods and impact.

The Scottish Government is committed to being a good global citizen. Maintaining Scotland's global profile and promoting our strengths are key if we are to increase international engagement, drive investment, attract businesses to Scotland and to facilitate partnerships.

The research work will focus on identifying increasingly influential actors on the world stage, many of whom are not states. These actors therefore engage and seek to impact through a variety of different methods. The list of actors will include, but is not limited to; cities, universities, businesses and cultural institutions.

The International Futures division is working on how best to use our assets to maximise our influence on the world around us on the issues that matter most in helping Scotland flourish within current constitutional powers. This research will produce a short report, highlighting what Scotland can learn from others' approaches, and what tools and metrics could be used to measure impact.

Project objectives

- Produce a literature review of non-state and cross-border regional soft power methods and impact.
- Provide mapping and analysis of available soft power ratings/rankings, including those that assess Scotland's performance.

Skills required:

- Strong quantitative analysis skills.
- Good communications and engagement skills.
- Strong written and oral communication.
- Interest/expertise in international relations is welcome, but not essential.

Timing: the exact dates of the internship will be agreed with the student. However, we anticipate the internship running between the months of April 2019 and June 2019.

Queries: For any queries about this post please contact Andrew.McDivitt@gov.scot

SG Analytical Sponsor: Andrew McDivitt

Enquiries to email: Andrew.McDivitt@gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 244 5954

Internship 08: Cybercrime in Scotland

Policy Context:

This is an exciting opportunity to work on an emerging and ever-evolving policy topic for the Scottish Government's Justice Analytical Services (JAS). JAS consists of social researchers, economists and statisticians, and has responsibility for providing research and analysis on a wide range of policy areas in the Justice and Safer Communities Directorates, including crime and policing, fire, resilience, civil and criminal justice, court proceedings, prisons, community justice and offender rehabilitation.

One of the areas in which we wish to develop the evidence base further is cybercrime. The rise of the internet and digital technologies has created many positive opportunities; however this can also be exploited for a range of illegal activities commonly referred to as 'cybercrime'. Although there is no single definition of cybercrime, for the purposes of this analytical work it is conceptualised as crime in which cyber-technology is in any way involved. As such, cybercrime is greatly variable and can range from using the internet to research how to cover up a murder to hacking into government systems and infecting them with malicious software. To effectively prevent and tackle such a broad problem, it is important to first examine and develop further the evidence base on the prevalence, scale and nature of cybercrime in Scotland.

Project details

The exact project details will depend on the evidence requirements of policy at the time of the internship together with the skills and expertise of the intern. Some examples of potential projects are an evidence review on cybercrime offenders, including who they are and how they operate individually and in networks; a synthesis of data from new sources on the prevalence of cybercrime, for example working with cyber security providers and business associations; exploratory analysis on the cost of fear of cybercrime, for example using shadow costing; or building a central source of cyber-safety advice tailored to individuals and organisations of different sizes and in different sectors.

Skills required

The intern will be based in the Safer Communities Analytic Unit, which is part of the Scottish Government's Justice Analytical Services (JAS) in Victoria Quay, in Leith, Edinburgh. We are looking for someone who enjoys being part of a team and who is also comfortable working independently to apply good evidence review, communication and report writing skills to the project. Quantitative skills would be helpful as the project is likely to involve analysing data.

Background or topic-related knowledge would be helpful though not essential, as the project can be partially tailored to the successful applicant's analytical experience and expertise. We are looking for someone who can approach the topic with an open mind and is keen to understand how evidence is used in developing and delivering public policy.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Robyn Bailey

Enquiries to email: Robyn.Bailey@gov.scot

Telephone: TBC / 0131 244 7984

Internship 09: Developing, Analysing and Disseminating the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey

Policy Context:

Justice Analytical Services (JAS) has responsibility for providing research and analysis on a wide range of policy areas in the Justice and Safer Communities Directorates including crime and policing. As part of this work, JAS analysts manage the delivery and dissemination of the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) – one of Scotland’s three main population surveys, designed to ask people about their experiences and perceptions of crime.

The survey provides a picture of crime in Scotland, including crimes that haven’t been reported to, or recorded by the police and captured in police recorded crime statistics. The findings from the SCJS are used by policy makers across the public sector in Scotland to help understand the nature of crime in Scotland, target resources and monitor the impact of initiatives to target crime.

More information on the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey and analysis/findings published to date can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/SCJS>

Project details

The SCJS is used in various ways and by multiple users across government, public services, academia and third sector. Delivering a robust and impactful survey which effectively meets user needs requires the SCJS Project Team to take forward a number of strands of work each year including:

- user engagement to regularly review and update questionnaire content;
- wider survey methodological development work to ensure statistics produced are robust and reliable; and
- data analysis, report-writing and dissemination of results.

The internship offers the opportunity to spend three months in the SCJS Project Team and support a range of activities to develop and bring alive high profile statistics on crime, as we continue to develop the evidence base produced by the SCJS on the population’s experiences of crime and perceptions of the criminal justice system. More generally, this is a unique chance to gain experience of leading and supporting a range of work to deliver one of Scotland’s three major household surveys.

The exact nature of the project(s) to be taken forward during the internship will depend on requirements at the time of the internship and the skills of the intern. However, possible tasks which the intern may be required to lead and/or contribute to include:

- Reviewing and developing the aspects of the SCJS questionnaire content to ensure that the survey collects timely and impactful evidence which meets user needs. This could involve user engagement, developing and testing new questions on the basis of wider evidence and user input, and reviewing analytical approaches to existing questions.
- Producing impactful analysis and research using SCJS data.
- Developing approaches to effectively disseminate the latest SCJS results and report. For example, this may involve a review of the SCJS website and direct engagement with Scottish Government and external users.
- Supporting a range of developments with the SCJS, including:
 - high profile work on repeat victimisation;
 - developing, publishing and using a larger multi-year sample of survey results;
 - reviewing the coding of SCJS crimes to ensure consistency and aid understanding in the comparability with police recorded crime data.

Skills required

- Good communication, presentation and report writing skills.
- Quantitative skills: experience of data analysis and reporting.
- It would be helpful though not essential to have background knowledge of criminal justice matters.

Please detail the full range of your research and analytical skills in your application and indicate particular strengths.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Darren Peaston

Enquiries to email: Darren.Peaston@gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 244 6598

Internship 10: Dissecting Reoffending

Policy Context:

By reducing criminal reoffending, we reduce the emotional, social, and economic impact of crime on our communities. Reconviction rates are a useful proxy for reoffending and are published annually by the Scottish Government in the Reconviction Rates in Scotland National Statistics publication. This publication presents reconviction rates and the associated measure of average number of reconvictions, which is an indication of the frequency of reconviction. These measures are given for different disaggregations, such as crime, gender, age, and sentence.

While reconviction rates for different groups are useful piece of evidence to understand reoffending, there is likely to be significant variation in different characteristics within the groups. To further understand reoffending, we need to look more in depth at this variation in reconviction rates. More specific analyses on reconviction rates will contribute to the evidence base to ensure that policies to reduce reoffending are targeted more precisely, for the benefit of communities and rehabilitation of offenders.

Project details

The intern would be working on data within Justice Analytical Services in the Scottish Government. Specifically, the intern would carry out analyses on the Scottish Offenders Index that contains the conviction records of all offenders convicted in Scottish courts since 1989. This is a particularly rich dataset that enables the linking of conviction records to determine the offending histories of groups of interest.

These analyses would focus on a particular theme, such as violent crime or youth offending, and examine:

- If offenders specialise on a particular type of crime.
- Whether the severity of crime escalates with each further crime.
- If different sentencing affects likelihood of reconviction
- The characteristics of offenders that are reconvicted compared to those that aren't reconvicted
- Changes in reconviction rates through time

We would also welcome approaches from applicants with their own ideas for analyses. The intern would be working with a statistician, and the results of this work will be presented in papers and verbal presentations. Training in the basic use of SAS will be offered.

Skills required

Essential:

- Good numerical skills.
- Some experience of quantitative statistical analyses.
- Ability to present data in graphs and tables.
- Experience of using spreadsheets.
- Experience of using statistical languages, such as R, SAS, or SPSS.

Desirable:

- Good written and verbal communication skills.
- A research interest in Criminal Justice.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Andrew Morgan

Enquiries to email: Andrew.Morgan@gov.scot; **Telephone:** 0131 244 9076

Internship 11: Serious Organised Crime in Scotland

Policy Context:

This is an exciting opportunity to work on a high profile public policy topic. In applying analytical and report writing skills, an intern will support the Scottish Government in better understanding and responding to Serious Organised Crime in Scotland.

Serious Organised Crime (SOC) – understood as being groups or individuals working together to maximise the benefits they derive from their criminal activity – has a significant negative impact on the social and economic wellbeing of Scottish communities. It is estimated that serious organised crime costs the Scottish economy up to £2 billion annually¹ and has a wide range of impacts on local communities beyond financial implications, ranging from fear, environmental damage, and exploitation of vulnerable groups.

Scotland's Serious Organised Crime Strategy (2015) committed to conducting research on the prevalence of serious organised crime in Scotland and its impact on communities. During 2017-18, analysts in Justice Analytical Services (JAS) delivered a multi-project phased research programme on SOC. During Phase 1 of the research programme, JAS delivered 5 key research projects, including; a literature review on SOC in Scotland¹, offending patterns of those involved in SOC¹, SOC mapping review, community experiences of SOC in Scotland and public perceptions of SOC .

Project details

The exact project details will depend on the requirements at the time of the internship and the skills of the intern. However, the intern would most likely work on scoping out and initiating Phase 2 of the SOC research programme. It is likely to include taking forward work on performance and measurement indicators on SOC, including assets, public perceptions, harm and victimisation, drawing on the Home Office SOC Strategy and their measurement regime. The internship may also involve looking at evidence from Scotland, the UK and other administrations on particular threats and harms from SOC or/as well as assessing the evidence of effectiveness for particular SOC interventions (social, operational and legal).

This work will help to ensure that the Scottish Government develops an evidence-based understanding of SOC, and an effective programme to counter it. This feeds into the Government's strategic vision of a 'safer, fairer and more prosperous country free from the harm caused by serious organised crime'. The intern will work both with analysts and with policy colleagues and will support the work of the Serious Organised Crime Taskforce, led by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice.

Skills required

The intern will be based in the Safer Communities Analytic Unit, which is part of the Scottish Government's Justice Analytical Services (JAS) in Victoria Quay, in Leith, Edinburgh. JAS has responsibility for providing research and analysis on a wide range of policy areas in the Justice and Safer Communities Directorates including crime and policing, fire, resilience, civil and criminal justice, court proceedings, prisons, community justice and offender rehabilitation. JAS consists of social researchers, economists and statisticians who support SG policy officials across justice and safer communities policy.

We are looking for someone who enjoys being part of a team, is flexible and is comfortable independently applying their research skills to new topics. Excellent analytical and writing skills are more important than knowledge of Justice or SOC. We are looking for someone who can approach the topic with an open mind and is keen to understand how evidence is used in developing, monitoring and evaluating public policy.

The project is likely to involve evidence reviews and working closely with policy to meet their requirements, although the specific topic(s) has not been finalised. The research approach/design could partly be tailored to the successful applicant's skills and knowledge. You should, therefore, detail the full range of your research and analytical skills in your application and indicate particular strengths.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Fran Warren/Eilidh Currie

Enquiries to email: Frances.Warren@gov.scot / Eilidh.Currie@gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 244 2541/ 0131 244 4528

DIRECTORATE GENERAL:

Directorate: Justice

Division/Team: Justice Analytical Services

Internship 12: What Works to Reduce Reoffending: Updating our Evidence Review

Context:

In 2015 Justice Analytical Services published '*What Works to Reduce Reoffending: A Review of the Evidence*'. <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/05/2480>. The review has been cited widely and helped to shape community justice policy priorities.

Project details

The successful intern will bring the review up-to-date by seamlessly incorporating any new and robust evidence (published between 2015 and 2018) that relates directly to 'what works' to reduce reoffending.

Any findings from recent UK evidence reviews or studies should be prioritised but they should also include any relevant new research published in other jurisdictions. There should be a particular focus on high priority and emerging policy areas including restorative justice and what interventions reduce reoffending for domestic abuse perpetrators and sex offenders.

You will be working alongside, and receive support from social researchers in the Justice Analytical Unit. They will be undertaking more focussed reviews on key topic areas which could be fed into the evidence review as appropriate.

The new material should be incorporated seamlessly into the existing review.

Location

You will be located at Victoria Quay in Justice Analytical Services at the Scottish Government.

Skills required

A track record of drafting high quality literature reviews or systematic reviews. Excellent writing skills with the ability to convey academic findings in accessible language that would be understood by a non-academic audience is crucial.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Catherine Bisset

Enquiries to email: catherine.bisset@gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 244 2983

DIRECTORATE GENERAL: Education, Communities and Justice

Directorate: Local Government and Communities

Division/Team: Local Government and Analytical Services Division/ Non-Domestic Rates Analysis Branch

Internship 13: Further Development of Business Rates Evidence Base

Policy Context: Non-domestic rates (business rates) income collected from business properties in Scotland amounts to around £2.8 billion per year and it is vital for the Scottish Government to have sound evidence on the tax base and other aspects of business rates (for example, key policies such as the Small Business Bonus Scheme and other reliefs). Expressions of interest are invited from PhD candidates with an interest in applying their quantitative analytical skills to support the development of the evidence base.

Project details: Further development of the statistical evidence available on business rates, and analysis of this evidence to inform policy development and monitoring. In particular the project will involve development of the information on business rates reliefs in 2019 through the Billing System Snapshot.

The Billing System Snapshot is an annual data collection from local authorities. It is a property level data collection and is a snapshot of all properties in receipt of Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) reliefs (such as Small Business Bonus Scheme, charity relief etc). Added value from the Billing System data comes from matching this data to the Valuation Roll, giving a better picture of what type of property is in receipt of what types of relief. Once the datasets are finalised, there is scope to carry out a lot of statistical analysis on the data. The project will involve carrying out quality assurance, processing and analysis of the most recent billing system snapshots. The project is of high interest to policy colleagues in the Scottish Government and there will be the opportunity to present and discuss results with Local Government Finance colleagues.

There are currently four permanent members of staff with responsibility for Non-Domestic Rates Analysis (2 statisticians and 2 economists), plus a further 10 staff in the wider analytical unit with varied skills, experience and background. You will be based within a supportive and collegiate team environment, and will also join a network of other interns across the Scottish Government.

Skills required: Sound quantitative analytical skills, experience of using statistical software (eg. SAS, SPSS, or Stata, etc). Experience in using SAS would be particularly useful, else a willingness to learn. Good Excel skills, good written and oral communication.

Timing: The timing of the internship be early June to early September (though exact timings to be agreed with the successful applicant).

Queries: SG Analytical Sponsor: Deborah Pegg

Enquiries to email: Deborah.Pegg@gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 244 0328

Internship 14: Local Government Finance Economics

Policy Context: In early 2016 the First Minister announced the appointment of Ken Barclay to lead an external review of how non-domestic rates could better reflect economic conditions and support investment and growth. The resulting report [non-domestic tax rates review: Barclay report](#) published on 22 August 2017 contained 30 recommendations to support growth, improve administration and increase fairness. On December 2017 the Scottish Government's published its response to the Barclay Review [Barclay review of non-domestic tax rates: ministerial response](#), in an implementation plan [Barclay review of non-domestic rates: implementation plan](#) confirming acceptance of the majority of the review recommendations.

Expressions of interest are sought from PhD candidates with an interest in applying their social science knowledge and experience to support the Government's commitment to developing a sound evidence base for public service reform to inform our policy development, interventions and financial sustainability.

Project details Following the publication of the Implementation plan for the Barclay's review recommendations, the Scottish Government continues to develop the evidence base to support monitor and evaluate the process and outcomes of the reforms.

The programme of work focuses on working collaboratively with policy and analytical colleagues to consider how evidence might help inform, monitor and evaluate the different strands of work around non-domestic rates policy.

We are looking for an intern with interest in potential involvement in work around evidence gathering and evidence review of a range of schemes to support businesses and improve the system. However, interns may be expected to work on other projects within the team's programme according to priorities at the time.

There are currently two permanent members of staff in the Local Government Finance Economics Team based within a wider analytical unit with varied skills, experience and background. You will work closely with policy colleagues and there will be the opportunity to meet other interns across the Scottish Government.

Skills required Strong analytical skills are required, ideally with a good understanding of both quantitative and qualitative methods. Also essential is strong interpersonal, written and oral communication skills and ability to work flexibly.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Reme Diaz

Enquiries to email: Reme.Diaz@gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 2443432

Internship 15: Public Service Reform

Policy Context: Excellent public services are essential for a productive and equitable society and the Scottish Government is committed to protecting and improving public services through reform and efficiency, and in these tough times, the power of public services to enhance quality of life and improve economic opportunities has never been more important.

The Scottish Government is committed to assets-based approaches and wants reform to happen in partnership with people and communities. This should be through alignment and integration of communities, public, third sector and private organisations who come together to co-produce services and facilities which are tailored to individual and community needs. This requires empowered communities and workforces and a new approach to first line and middle management and governance structures to facilitate integration, innovation and adaptation.

Expressions of interest are sought from PhD candidates with an interest in applying their social science knowledge and experience to support the Government's commitment to developing a sound evidence base for public service reform to inform our policy development, interventions and financial sustainability.

Project details Building on the learning from the Christie Commission's 2012 report (www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Review/publicservicescommission), the Scottish Government continues to develop the evidence base to inform, support and evaluate the reform process and outcomes to support the development of policies based on theories of change.

We are looking for an intern with interest in potential involvement in work around reviewing community planning; contribution to the Local Governance Review and ongoing support towards development of volunteering and Third Sector policy. However, interns may be expected to work on other projects within the team's wide programme according to priorities at the time.

There are currently two permanent members of staff in the Local Governance and Reform Research Team based within a wider analytical unit with varied skills, experience and background. You will work closely with policy colleagues and there will be the opportunity to meet other interns across the Scottish Government.

Skills required Strong analysis skills, particularly in qualitative methods and knowledge of quantitative methods would be desirable. Also essential is strong interpersonal, written and oral communication skills and ability to work flexibly. Welcomed would be an interest / knowledge of social innovation, Public Service Reform and the role of communities and the Third Sector, alongside a genuine interest in being involved in work on tackling poverty and inequality in Scotland.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Jacqueline Rae

Enquiries to email: Jacqueline.Rae@gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 2447566

DIRECTORATE GENERAL:

Directorate: Education, Communities and Justice

Division/Team: Office of the Chief Social Policy Adviser

Internship 16: Social Capital data analysis and reporting

Policy Context:

This internship will be hosted within the Office of the Chief Social Policy Adviser in the Scottish Government. The Office of the Chief Social Researcher consists of the Chief Social Policy Advisor – Professor Carol Tannahill and a small friendly team of three researchers. The Office of the Chief Social Policy Advisor works across the Scottish Government to make people and communities a stronger focus of government and reduce inequalities in outcomes.

Social capital is strategically important for the Scottish Government for a number of reasons. It is of key relevance to the [National Performance Framework](#) (NPF), with intrinsic value as an indicator of social wellbeing and strongly related to positive social outcomes such as lower crime rates, improved health, higher educational achievement, strong democracy and good governance, and is an important means of preventing a range of negative outcomes. Improving shared understandings of levels of social capital will strengthen the NPF in the future. The Scottish Government has also made a commitment to trust and empower communities to control their own affairs, and this depends on the existence of a strong infrastructure of connections and networks across communities.

Project details

The project will provide a great opportunity to be involved in the analysis and reporting of quantitative and qualitative dimensions of social capital as well as exposure to analytical and policy processes, strategic planning and seeing government working across a range of policy teams and interests.

The key tasks will include some of the following:

- Writing up data and analysis into simple, powerful messages in a Scottish Government report on social capital.
- Incorporating case studies that illustrate the value of strong relationships and connections between people in communities.
- Reviewing other contextual information and resources from other situation and jurisdictions to have a critical sense of the ways other countries and organisations have recognised the concept of social capital within their analytical and policy briefing.
- Working with teams across government to respond to their interests and perspectives on the research outputs.
- Contributing to internal and external briefing on social capital and community wellbeing in the Scottish Government.

The internship can be based in Glasgow or Edinburgh.

Skills required

A good understanding and experience of quantitative and qualitative data analysis, report writing and communication, combining qualitative and quantitative research findings, using creative methods and techniques to convey important findings to a range of audiences.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Ben.Cavanagh

Enquiries to email: ben.cavanagh@gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 244 1602

Internship 17: Understanding Poverty and Inequality in Scotland

Policy Context:

The Poverty and Inequality Commission was established by the Scottish Government in July 2017 to:

- Provide advice to Scottish Ministers on reducing poverty and inequality in Scotland,
- Scrutinise progress that is being made,
- Have an advocacy role, developing its own work programme and working with business and wider civic society to promote the importance of particular issues.

The Commission is made up of eight Commissioners and is chaired by an independent Chair, Douglas Hamilton, who works for the Commission one day a week. The Commission meets every two months and smaller working groups are set up to take forward specific areas of work.

The Commission has a full and varied work programme up until summer 2019 which can be viewed on its [website](#).

Project details

The intern would join the secretariat team, which comprises a Secretariat/Policy Manager, Analytical Manager and an Administrator. This is a unique opportunity to work in a small and busy team supporting an independent Commission. It will be an interesting and challenging internship which requires someone who can work flexibly and creatively and is willing to get involved in a variety of work.

The exact details of the project depends on the priorities of the Commission at the time and the timing of the internship. We envisage however that the intern would be involved with the Commission's scrutiny programme which is likely to involve a combination of reviewing existing evidence around particular aspects of poverty and inequality and conducting focus groups with those with lived experience of poverty and those with professional expertise in this area.

Skills required

- Ability to quickly review literature and data and write this up succinctly
- Qualitative research skills – including conducting focus groups and analysing the transcripts
- Communication skills – both the ability to write concise reports and also to present the findings of analysis clearly.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Katherine Myant

Enquiries to email: Katherine.Myant@povertyinequality.scot

Telephone: 0131 244 4085

Internship 18: An Evaluation of the Food Processing, Marketing and Co-Operation Grant Scheme

Policy Context:

Scottish Government is a key partner in the delivery of Ambition 2030 - the Food and Drink industry led strategy launched March 2017 with ambition to double food & drink turnover value to £30 billion by 2030 and focuses on the following themes: Brand; Market development; People & skills; Supply Chain; and Innovation.

The Food Processing, Marketing and Co-operation (FPMC) grant scheme is one of the funding measures within the Scottish Rural Development Programme (2014-20).

<https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/food-processing--marketing-and-co-operation/>

<https://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/SRDP>

The FPMC scheme provides financial support – by means of a grant – to Scottish-based businesses involved in the production/ processing of food and drink. Funding can be provided for investment in buildings and equipment. FPMC is a co-financed scheme involving both domestic and EU funds.

There have been seven bidding rounds to date (with eighth round applications currently being processed). A total of 97 projects have been assisted with £47m of grant. An estimated 1000 jobs have been created with a further 6,000 safeguarded.

Project details

The internship will involve an evaluation of whether the objectives of the FPMC scheme have been achieved, assess how the monitoring of it could be improved, and to make recommendations to policy as to its value. This will largely involve a desk base analysis of all aspects of the scheme, including examining the original project application forms, returned data (approximately 50 returned monitoring forms), and contact with the grant beneficiaries (i.e. email, telephone, site visits). The relative success of these projects will then be measured against various measures, such as projected increased sales, volumes, new market opportunities, inward investment, sustainability etc. The last stage will be provide a critical assessment of the scheme and make recommendations for policy going forward.

The successful applicant will gain valuable experience of working with Scottish Government researchers and policy teams. The output from this work will be valuable in helping Scottish Government formulate future support measures following the UK's exit from the EU and consequent loss of EU funding.

Skills required

Good analysis and evaluation skills are essential, as well as a critical eye and good communication and report-writing skills. Some knowledge of food and drink sector is desirable but not essential.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Neil Davidson

Enquiries to email: Neil.davidson@gov.scot
Telephone: 0131 244 9734

Internship 19: Economic Analysis to Inform Post-Brexit Common Agricultural Policy in Scotland

Policy Context:

You will join the Agricultural Analysis team based in Edinburgh, which is part of the Scottish Governments Rural and Environmental Science and Analytical Services (RESAS) Division. Our staff are skilled administrators, statisticians and economists that work to produce official statistics and economic analysis on the agricultural sector in Scotland.

The main policy focus of the team is currently the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which provides around £500 million of subsidy support to the Scottish agriculture sector, ranging from large commercial enterprises to small family farms as well as forestry and other rural development.

The Scottish Government will need to prepare for the implementation of the EU Withdrawal Bill and consider options for replacing the CAP following the UK's exit from the European Union. We are currently consulting on a range of transition and longer-term proposals for replacing the CAP and economic analysis will be crucial to understand how new policies may impact upon businesses, the environment, the end consumer and wider society.

Project details

RESAS are currently providing analysis and evidence to help inform future policy to replace the CAP. This is a large programme of work, which will include economic option appraisals and benchmarking to support future evaluations.

The overarching aim of this internship is to support the above programme of work. It will involve a range of analysis, such as developing evidence on the impacts of different policy options to improve Scottish agricultural productivity.

The policy development is at an early stage and the economic analysis will be crucial to helping determine the policy options taken whether supporting improvements to the productivity of Scottish agriculture to or to enhance Scotland's natural capital and environmental schemes or improve the integration of the supply chain associated with the rural economy and agriculture.

Skills required

You will have a background in economics and be ready to use your learning to undertake technical economic research and analysis. Whilst not essential, you may be familiar or have experience in agriculture or a related area.

You will be able to demonstrate the ability to carry out work independently. However, will supported when engaging with analytical and policy colleagues throughout. You will therefore have skills in being able to communicate your work clearly and simply to a non-technical audience.

As the project is still in early stages of development and key decisions have yet to be taken the precise project will be determined nearer the time. However, you will likely be working on a side project that will support the overall policy looking at productivity in the agricultural sector.

You will gain experience in presenting and writing up findings from your work to support an active and high-profile policy area in Scottish Government.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Richard Haw

Enquiries to email: Richard.Haw@gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 244 9697

Internship 20: Open Government and Freedom of Information

Policy Context:

The First Minister has stated her commitment to leading “an outward looking Government which is more open and accessible to Scotland’s people than ever before”.

There is an ongoing programme of work designed to continuously improve the openness and transparency of Scottish Government decision-making, including our approach to Freedom of Information and the commitments made under the international Open Government Partnership.

This internship offers the opportunity to provide research and analytical input to support the work of the Constitution and Cabinet directorate, which sits at the centre of the Scottish Government, covering a range of high-profile and priority policy areas, including Elections policy, Freedom of Information, Constitutional policy and Inter-Governmental Relations with other UK administrations.

Project details

At the time of advertising, the precise nature and subject of the internship project is yet to be decided, but it will be in the topic area of Freedom of Information and Open Government.

Tasks are likely to include:

- Sourcing and analysing existing international information and evidence
- Literature reviews
- Analysing quantitative data
- Producing summary briefing papers
- Presenting findings orally

Skills required

Strong analytical skills: ability to assess, analyse and synthesise qualitative and quantitative data, research and other information from a range of sources.

Communication: writing reports and briefing papers for a non-academic audience; good oral presentation skills.

Adaptability and flexibility: ability to fit into an office and government environment and fast paced way of working.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Gill Cruickshank

Enquiries to email: gillian.cruickshank@gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 244 3786

Internship 21: Strategic Insights Unit

Policy Context:

The Strategic Insights Unit undertakes detailed analysis of medium term cross-cutting policy issues for Scotland and produces robust policy advice, working closely with analytical and policy colleagues across Scottish Government.

The Unit is based in the Scottish Exchequer, which lies at the heart of the work of the Scottish Government. The Unit advises Ministers, the Permanent Secretary and the Executive Team on a range of cross cutting issues. It's a multi-disciplinary policy/analytical team, including policy advisers, a statistician, economists and social researchers.

Project details

One internship is offered by the Strategic Insights Unit. The work will include supporting work to identify options for new policy approaches to improve outcomes, address challenges or take advantage of opportunities for Scotland in the medium term, in selected areas of economic and social policy. The exact topics will depend on the work in progress at the time the intern joins the team. The Unit works on a diverse range of social and economic policy areas including tax, demographic challenges, wellbeing and use of big data and predictive analytics to deliver public value. Following a horizon scanning project which identified future challenges and opportunities facing Scotland over the next 5 to 15 years, we have started a programme of work around utilisation of new technologies. This is looking at how Scotland leverages future advantages of technological advancement including labour market and societal implications, and has looked at ethical implications of data use by new technologies. The team also supports the Executive Team's programme of quarterly strategic discussions.

The intern may work on several projects during their time in the Unit. The internship is likely to involve:

- desk based research, including the analysis of existing research evidence/data and information gathering
- the opportunity to work with government analysts and policy makers across the Scottish Government and
- the communication of findings in the form of short briefing papers or presentations for a range of Scottish Government audiences including senior civil servants.

Skills required

The Strategic Insights Unit invites expressions of interest from students with an interest in applying their social science knowledge and experience to contribute to the work of the Unit. We welcome applications from students in any social science discipline.

Required skills:

- literature searching and reviewing skills – including reviewing papers from a wide range of disciplines and sources
- good written and oral communication skills are essential
- ability to operate across traditional analytical boundaries and disciplines
- understanding that project work will be sensitive and will require careful handling.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Aileen McIntosh

Enquiries to email: Aileen.McIntosh@gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 244 5646

Internship 22: Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and the National Performance Framework in Scotland

Policy Context:

Scotland was one of the first countries to sign up to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. The National Performance Framework (NPF) is Scotland's key mechanism to deliver these Global Goals. It sets out a vision for the kind of country we want to see and a range of social, environmental and economic indicators to monitor our progress. The NPF and the SDGs share the same spirit of ambition to encourage the transformational change necessary to tackle the most challenging issues facing our societies and planet.

The SDGs have been embedded into the NPF. This integration means that working towards delivering the NPF vision will also enable progress against the Global Goals. Progress of this nature cannot merely be achieved by government alone. Everyone has a role to play and partnership working is critical to success. To read more about the National Performance Framework and the SDGs, please go to (<http://nationalperformance.gov.scot/>).

Project details

This internship offers the successful candidate an opportunity to work in a high profile and dynamic area of the Scottish Government, with the potential to make a lasting contribution to how the NPF vision and the UN SDGs are delivered in Scotland.

The UK will be reporting to the UN via the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process at the UN High Level Political Forum in July 2019. As part of this process the UK Government is working with the Devolved Administrations to include their respective approach and progress stories on achieving the SDGs. The Scottish Government is working with partners across all sectors in Scotland to coordinate its contribution to this report, outlining the approach, progress made thus far and plan for next steps.

This project will support the work of the Performance team within the Performance and Outcomes Division in the centre of Scottish Government who work both to senior leaders and corporate boards at the highest levels of the organisation and with a wide ranging set of partners across Scotland.

The internship will include a range of activities including:

- Reviewing international evidence on other countries' approaches to implementing the SDGs and summarising concisely the key learning messages for Scotland
- Support final drafting and communication of Scottish Government's contribution to the UK's VNR.
- Using social research expertise to support implementation plans as set out in Scotland's contribution to the UK's Voluntary National Review
- Support analysis and communication of NPF and SDG baseline data to inform next steps
- For all of the above, preparing written, oral and visual content to communicate the messages from the internship research project to senior figures in the Scottish Government.

Skills required

- Broad mixed methods research experience and an understanding of a range of common qualitative and quantitative research designs.
- Competent in quickly appraising evidence from a range of sources and summarising concisely the important messages.
- Ability to work flexibly and quickly in response to competing demands and priorities.
- Able to engage effectively with and work closely with senior stakeholders.
- Strong written and oral communication ability.

- Experience with developing theoretical frameworks for evaluation such as logic models or theories of change would be advantageous.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant, however it would be ideal for the internship to start as soon as possible, ideally around April 2019.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Rory Morrison

Enquiries to email: Rory.Morrison@gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 244 0631

Internship 23: Transformational Change within the Scottish Prison Service

Policy Context:

It is now some 5 years since SPS published its Organisational Review which set out a revised operating philosophy and a radical transformational change agenda based on developing a person-centred, asset-based approach to those in custodial care; promoting individual agency and self-efficacy to realise potential; strengthening links into communities; supporting throughcare; and investing in staff to enable them to be effective change agents. SPS's Mission is to "provide services that help to transform the lives of people in our care so they can fulfil their potential and become responsible citizens".

Project details

The exact details of the internship will depend on the skills of the applicant and key policy developments at the time. The intern will have an opportunity to shape their own workload. The work will focus on providing a research and evidence base to support the implementation of SPS' continuing change agenda. There will be an opportunity to become involved in a variety of work-streams such as the Prisoner Survey; the Purposeful Activities Strategy; the Throughcare Support initiative; Offender Behaviour Programme evaluation; Performance Measurement and Benchmarking; SPS' Strategic Assessment exercise; the Population Management project; and general horizon scanning for international best practice in penal policy and practice.

The intern will:

- contribute to an approved programme of research and evaluation priorities;
- scan the domestic and international horizons and disseminate innovative thinking and best practice on, *inter alia*, penal philosophy, innovative practice, organisational performance, multi-agency collaborative working, offender case management, throughcare initiatives, criminal justice reforms, etc.;
- communicate relevant data analyses, performance information, evaluations and research based evidence to a range of public, academic, partner agency and parliamentary interests to influence and shape policy thinking.

Skills required

- Literature and information search and review skills;
- Good written and oral communication skills;
- Experience of the use of social research methods.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Jim Carnie
Enquiries to email: james.carnie@sps.pnn.gov.uk
Telephone: 0131 330 3766

Internship 24: Low Carbon Analysis

Policy Context:

Climate change is one of the greatest global threats we face and Scotland must play its part to achieve the ambitions set out in the Paris Agreement. The Scottish Government believes that the transition to a low carbon society is an essential investment for the future welfare of the people of Scotland, our economy, environment, and for those generations yet to be born.

Our bold new plans for transport were announced in the Programme for Government 2017 - 2018. There, we set a new target for phasing out the need to buy petrol and diesel engine cars and vans by 2032, a full eight years ahead of the UK Government. Analysts in Transport Scotland are working closely with policymakers to deliver this commitment by ensuring our initiatives to incentivise uptake of electric vehicles are based on the latest available evidence.

Project details

This is a fast moving policy area with core objectives to: incentivise consumers to choose an electric vehicle (EV); support a state of the art network of charging points for EV users; engage with Scottish businesses to help them benefit from the shift to EVs; and embed new skills and capabilities into the Scottish workforce.

The intern would be working for the Head of Low Carbon Analysis to support the policy team to deliver these objectives. Likely work includes: completing in-depth interviews with current EV owners to improve our understanding of the benefits and barriers to owning an EV; Completing evidence reviews and international benchmarking to improve our understanding of what incentives have worked in other countries to improve the uptake of EVs; Analysis of survey data of Charge Place Scotland (CPS) users to improve our understand of how public charging points are used. Due to the fast paced nature of this policy area the actual project will be confirmed nearer the time.

Skills required

- Knowledge of and practical application of qualitative and/or quantitative research methods
- Ability to summarise and interpret information accurately, making use of different sources and to conduct basic analyses of key datasets
- Pro-active, self-starter with strong written and verbal communication skills for reporting research results.

Timing

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: Eleanor Kilpatrick

Enquiries to email: Eleanor.kilpatrick@transport.gov.scot

Telephone: 0131 244 0884

POOL APPLICATIONS

Internship: Pool Applications

Policy Context:

The Scottish Government is always in the position of having to respond to changing demands and emerging events. As a result it is frequently the case that new opportunities for internships arise between the time when the call for projects closes and the appointment of interns. It is not possible to advertise these opportunities, but as and when they arise we like to be able to place interns into these exciting or fast-moving areas.

Project details:

Interns who are prepared to apply for the pool can be offered placements and projects in any area of the Scottish Government for which their skill set is relevant. Some of these may include unfilled projects that have been advertised above in the general advertisement, but others will be new or substantially changed projects where new demands for analysis are only beginning to be identified.

The intern will usually supported by a senior social researcher and/or economic advisor who will help and guide with project planning and management.

There will be opportunities for the intern to present their work within the Scottish Government if desired.

Skills required:

For pool placements we will look to match skills interns have identified with new placement opportunities. It is therefore really important that interns explain what their core skills are – whether those skills are qualitative/quantitative and/or economic or social. On top of that we will always need people who are/have:

- Strong organisational skills and self-motivated
- Excellent communication skills
- Critical thinking/analysis

Timing:

The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Queries:

SG Analytical Sponsor: co-ordinated by the Office of the Chief Researcher

Enquiries to email: Enquiries.SG-SGSSS.interns@gov.scot