

Scottish Government and NERC PhD Student Internship Opportunities for 2012

1. Directorate General: Enterprise and Environment

Directorate: Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate

Division/Team: Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services (RESAS)

Internship title: Improving Agricultural Productivity through Science and Innovation

Project details: The UK Foresight report on the [Future of Food and Farming](#) argues that investment in research and development is critical to producing more food efficiently and sustainably. The recent G20 meeting of Agriculture Ministers has also stressed the importance of research and development for agricultural productivity. The internship will synthesise the evidence on the links between science and agricultural productivity. The findings will be used to better understand the outcomes from Scottish Government investment into scientific research in food and agriculture in Scotland.

The internship will involve: the review and analysis of existing research evidence/data; the presentation of research findings in the form of short briefing papers. The internship will offer the opportunity to work with government analysts, government scientists, research providers and policy makers.

Skills required: Qualitative research skills and project management. A knowledge of agricultural issues is not required.

Timing: 2012 to be agreed with the intern.

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2. Directorate General: Environment

Directorate: Rural Payments and Inspections (RPID)

Division/Team: Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services

Internship title: Scottish Governments Geographic Information Science and Analysis Team (GI-SAT)

Project Details: GI-SAT invites expressions of interest from NERC PhD students with an interest in applying their NERC PhD skills to review and propose the use of new technologies and spatial analysis techniques / visualisations (including GIS and remote sensing) to add value to the Scottish Government's GIS capabilities and improve policy delivery. GI-SAT are responsible for the provision of GIS services to the Scottish Government as a whole and are involved in a wide range of policy areas.

The details of the internship will depend on the skills of the applicants, and key policy development or delivery issues in 2011-12. Options for the internship may include: land use, use of GIS in a resilience/emergency

planning context, and the strategic use of remote sensing. Applicants are encouraged to outline their own key skills and also their capacity/willingness to apply their skills to areas other than their PhD topic for the duration of the internship.

Skills required: GIS and spatial analysis techniques; project management; oral and written communication.

Timing: 2012 (exact start date to be discussed with student)

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3. Directorate General: Enterprise and Environment

Directorate: Marine Scotland

Division/Team: Marine Analytical Unit, Marine Scotland Science

Internship title: Draft National Marine Plan: Consultation Analysis

Project details: This project will involve analysing written responses to a public consultation on the Draft National Marine Plan. The National Marine Plan will shape national objectives and policies surrounding Scotland's coastal and marine management. In doing so, it must set out: policies for sustainable development of Scotland's seas; policies on Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and other relevant conservation sites; economic, social and marine ecosystem objectives and further objectives for the mitigation and adaptation of climate change; and the condition of the Scottish marine area (or region) including a summary of the significant pressures and human impacts on the area.

The Intern will carry out analysis of all responses to the consultation and produce a written report on key findings from the analysis. The project will offer the opportunity to work with a range of analysts and policy officials within the Scottish Government and provide the intern with a comprehensive overview of the work of Marine Scotland.

Skills required: Experience in quantitative and qualitative analytical skills, Microsoft Excel, project management, and report writing.

Timing: 2012 (exact start date to be discussed with student)

Contact SG Analytical Sponsor: Sam Anson

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4. Pool Opportunity

The Scottish Government invites expressions of interest from NERC PhD students with an interest in applying their PhD skills to work in the field of environmental research and analysis.

The details of internship projects will depend on the skills of the applicants, and key policy development or delivery issues in 2012. Options for the

internship may include: the low-carbon economy; behaviour change; public engagement; and mitigation or adaptation policy options. These opportunities may involve work within Rural and Environmental Science and Analytical Services (RESAS) or Marine Scotland.

Applicants are encouraged to outline their key skills and their capacity/willingness to apply their skills to areas other than their PhD topic for the duration of the internship. If internships opportunities arise during 2012 to support priority policy development or delivery issues, the skills of applicants who have been successful in their application to the 'Pool' will be matched with opportunities arising.

Timing: 2012 (exact start date to be discussed with student)

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