

Audit Scotland Internship Opportunity

Internship Title	Investigating Regional Economies
Line Manager	Richard Robinson, Senior Manager
Payment	The internship will be paid at UKRI doctoral stipend levels
Hours	Full-time or part-time
Based	Remotely, unless government guidance on Covid-19 changes
Duration	12 weeks (full-time) or 24 weeks (part-time). Flexible for a start date in May or June 2021.
To apply	Please apply via Grad Hub by 12pm on Monday 01 March

About Audit Scotland

Audit Scotland provides the Auditor General and the Accounts Commission with the services they need. We give independent assurance to the people of Scotland that public money is spent properly, efficiently and effectively.

We audit 222 public bodies. These include 72 Central government bodies and Scottish Parliament (including police, fire, Scottish Water); 23 NHS bodies; and 32 Councils.

Placement Information

Context

Devolved financial powers mean that the Scottish Government must manage economic risks and opportunities to its budget. The National Performance Framework includes measures relating to inclusive growth, equalities and the economy. Covid-19 has increased economic uncertainty, and the Scottish Government is implementing a series of economic plans to rebuild the economy. This placement will help Audit Scotland to understand the regional components of the national one, to assess performance against outcomes and effectiveness of spending decisions.

Placement Details

The PhD intern will research the different regional economies and drivers of economic growth across Scotland. This will include investigating differences and trends relating to (for example):

- The shape of the local economies
- The shape of the associated local taxpayer bases
- The makeup of local businesses and employers

Alongside this, the PhD intern will need to consider regional demographics and factors affecting the public sector, such as health inequalities and poverty data.

The key outputs from the placement will be an internal report which pulls together key findings, and potentially a presentation to Audit Scotland staff. The data produced will be used to inform Audit Scotland's understanding of how Scotland's regions differ, and how budget and policy decisions, public sector challenges and performance measures align to it.

Benefits to the PhD intern

Benefits include developing an understanding of why the economy matters to public finances, how public spending decisions affect different regions in Scotland, and the role and contribution of public audit to the national systems of governance and accountability.

The PhD intern will gain experience working primarily with Audit Scotland colleagues, and building relationships with Scottish Government and other stakeholders, such as Scottish Parliament Information Centre, Fraser of Allander Institute and the Scottish Fiscal Commission.

Person Specification

This is primarily a research piece, looking to bring together information on regional economies and populations to help inform audit activity and outputs.

Required skills and attributes

Candidates must have:

- Research methods – theoretical knowledge
- Information Seeking
- Information literacy and management
- Analysing
- Synthesising
- Evaluating
- Inquiring minds
- Enthusiasm
- Perseverance
- Integrity
- Self-confidence
- Responsibility

Desired skills and attributes

It may be beneficial for candidates to possess the following skills and attributes:

- Subject Knowledge
- Research methods – Practical application
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Intellectual insight
- Self-reflection

Eligibility

Before making an application, please ensure that you meet **all** of the eligibility criteria below:

- Registered at a university in Scotland, regardless of funding source;
- In the second or third year of PhD study only. Please note that if you are in your final year, you need to have more than 6 months left for your PhD when the internship starts;
- Eligible to work under the [UK Civil Service nationality rules](#);
- Eligible to work in the UK.

Deadlines

The deadline to apply is **12pm on Monday 01 March**. Shortlisted applicants may be invited to a virtual interview.

For further information, please consult the SGSSS [Internship FAQs](#). If this does not answer your questions, please contact Anna-Marie (Knowledge Exchange and Partnerships Manager, SGSSS): team@sgsss.ac.uk.