



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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SGSSS-SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP SCHEME PROJECTS STARTING NOVEMBER 2024 ONWARDS

Application Deadline: 2nd August 2024

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. Which 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 Scottish Graduate School of Social Science (SGSSS)-Scottish Government Internship Programme 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 as a part of their studies. An extension of students stipend is awarded during the length of placement. The placement offers a voluntary opportunity for students to develop themselves in ways not offered by their PhD.

Intern projects are stand-alone, exploratory pieces of work that are specifically developed for the student. We offer ongoing support and mentoring to students; as well as membership of

cohort network during their placement. Students gain transferrable skills and receive guidance on how to best use the experience on application forms for future jobs. These placements offer the opportunity to gain knowledge of a sector and expand professional networks as well as a chance to decide if a career in applied research at the Scottish Government is a career they'd wish to pursue. (we encourage students to apply for projects out with their current field of study for maximum benefits but this is not mandatory).

Working arrangements

Internships can be on a full-time or part-time working basis for **three months** (13 weeks) or longer if a part-time student (up to 26 weeks). The available working hour arrangements will be highlighted in each project. 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 we hope that most roles will be able to offer hybrid working with some "in office" days throughout the internship, projects with this flexibility will be highlighted. **Please note** that whilst some internships may be advertised as remote working only, we require that all interns for any roles are living within the UK for the full duration of their internship.

Please see the SGSSS Internships FAQs and Travel and Expenses Policy for information on travel and accommodation reimbursement.

Successful applicants and their University supervisor/HEI leads 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);
- have the right to work in the UK
- are undertaking their PhD in a social science discipline*;
- are in the second or third year of their PhD;

*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

Due to the roll out of a new HR system, the internships will start no earlier than the **beginning of November 2024**. If successful all students (except international students holding a Student Visa) will take an interruption of studies so that they are not eligible for fees during the internship. Please note that students holding a Student Visa can only undertake a placement part-time alongside full-time study due to UK visa regulations. 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 (or part time equivalent) 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 via the SG Internship Scheme Manager once you commence your placement.

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 Tier 2 visa are not eligible to apply for internships.

How to apply

Applicants should submit via an **online application** available on the SGSSS website,

The deadline for applications is 2nd August 2024

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 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 Alana Devlin (SG) or the team at 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 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 place applicants so we may not be in touch for approximately 5 weeks after the deadline. SGSSS will inform of unsuccessful applications and if successful the Scottish Government host will contact you to offer you a place and/or to seek further information from you. If you have not heard back from us within 6 weeks of the deadline then please contact Alana Devlin on the email below.

Additional information

The Scottish Government Internship Scheme Manager is Alana Devlin, Office of the Chief Researcher, email Socialresearchinterns@gov.scot and the SGSSS contact is Kelly Barbour who can be contacted via email on team@sgsss.ac.uk

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

- <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Economy>
- <https://www.gov.scot/statistics-and-research/>
- <https://www.gov.scot/publications/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 8 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. **Please note some projects may slightly change in scope from what is listed below, but any changes will be communicated to the student as early as possible, the skills required will not be affected.**

No	Host Area	Internship Title	Contact
	Any	Analyst Pool	Alana.Devlin@gov.scot
1	Office of the Chief Executive	R20-01 SPS Corporate Plan 2023-28: Methods for the Management of Prison Safety and Good Order	james.carnie@prisons.gov.scot
2	Performance, Delivery & Resilience	R20-02 Strengthening the Culture data landscape in Scotland	jenny.young@gov.scot
3	Mental Health	R20-03 Visualising data for NHS Mental Health Services	Stephen.Smith@gov.scot / Sarah.Martin@gov.scot
4	Strategy, Performance, Delivery and Resilience Directorate	R20-04: Strategic futures analysis: Research support for Horizon Scanning: Scotland 2045	ben.cavanagh@gov.scot
5	Exchequer Strategy	R20-05 Show me the money: Using evidence to support fiscally sustainable decisions	Joseph.Adams@gov.scot / angela.nolte@gov.scot
6	Local Government and Housing	R20-06 Supporting evidence-informed public engagement on council tax reform	rachel.anderson3@gov.scot
7	Local Government and Housing	R20-07 Building the evidence base to inform development of a cruise ship levy policy	rachel.anderson3@gov.scot
8	Public Service Reform/Local Government and Housing	R20-08 Evidence-informed community planning for local impact	rachel.anderson3@gov.scot
9	Directorate for Learning	R20-09 Scoping of data to help measure Scotland's progress in fulfilling the rights in UNCRC Articles 37 and 40	dafni.dima@gov.scot
10	Public Procurement and Property/ Local Government and Housing	R20-10 Domestic Homicide and Suicide Review: Using Evidence to Inform Policy Development (Family Involvement)	tamsyn.wilson@gov.scot
11	Demographic Statistics	R20-11: Who is supplying Scotland? Qualitative analysis of public sector contractors	Colin Forber, colin.forber@gov.scot
12	Tackling Child Poverty and Social Justice	R20-12 : SAS to R migration and accessibility improvements for a major National Statistics publication	Riya Atanasova riya.atanasova@gov.scot
13	Population Health	R20-13 : Evaluating the impact of the Five Family Payments	John Mowbray john.mowbray@gov.scot

14	Directorate of Population Health	R20-14: Reactive project in support of Drugs Policy and the National Mission on Drugs	Anniek.Sluiman@gov.scot
15	Tackling Child Poverty and Social Justice	R20-15: Improving the evidence base for Community Link Workers	Emma Milburn emma.milburn@gov.scot
16	Directorate of Population Health	R20-16: Engaging with low-income families in place-based anti-poverty initiatives	Tracey Hughes, tracey.hughes@gov.scot
17	Marine Directorate	R20-17: Measuring palliative care experiences	Nadine Thomas, nadine.thomas@gov.scot
18	Directorate For Social Care And National Care Service Development	R20-18: Engaging with fishers in decision making processes: A review of international approaches to regional and local inshore fisheries management	Inga.Freimane@gov.scot
19	Population Health	R20-19 NCS Future Workforce: Culture, Leadership and Integration	Anna.Caceres@gov.scot / Connie.Hendry@gov.scot
20	Learning	R20-20 Social research to support the development of the next phase of the Women's Health Plan (WHP)	Eilidh.Currie@gov.scot
21	Directorate for Environment and Forestry	R20-21 Developing the evidence base on childcare (for children aged 9 months to 11 years)	Gillian Achurch - Gillian.Achurch@gov.scot
22	ENFOR	R20-22 Mapping Scotland's Food System: Synthesizing high-level indicator data to assist in monitoring the outcomes of Scotland's first Good Food Nation Plan	Philip.Duffy@gov.scot / Minna.Linpaa@gov.scot
23	Safer Communities	R20-23 Climate Adaptation and Agriculture: Synthesising the Evidence Base for Effective Policy Making	Richard Haw richard.haw@gov.scot
24	Local Government and Housing	R20-24 Technology Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls – Mapping the Data Landscape	tamsyn.wilson@gov.scot

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: SocialResearchInterns@gov.scot

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Internship title	R20-01 SPS Corporate Plan 2023-28: Methods for the Management of Prison Safety and Good Order
Directorate General	Scottish Prison Service

Directorate	Office of the Chief Executive
Division/team	Improvement
Primary Location	Edinburgh - SPS HQ One Lochside Avenue EH12 9DJ
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Jim Carnie - james.carnie@prisons.gov.scot
Project details	<p>"The exact details of the internship will depend on the skills and interests of the applicant, potentially having a data or social research focus. But the overall focus will be on analysis to consolidate the evidence base in support of the implementation of Objective 1 of the Corporate Plan 2023-28 – considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How the use of Rule 95 is currently being deployed across the estate to maintain good order or discipline, protect the interests of prisoners, and/or keep those in our care (as well as the staff group) safe; - Why people are put on Rule 95, and for what length of time; and, - Whether this has changed over time? If it has, how has it changed? And what have the drivers of this change been? <p>Note: this includes – but is not limited to – time spent in Separation and Reintegration Units (SRUs), because significant numbers of people are confined to their own cell when put on Rule 95. Located within the Improvement team - but working closely with Operational colleagues - the intern will have the opportunity to make evidence-based recommendations to inform penal policy and practice in Scotland.</p>
Policy Context	<p>The Scottish Prison Service's Corporate Plan 2023-28 (CP2328) sets out its ambition to deliver prison services in a way that is more person-centred, inclusive, trauma-informed and rights based. Translating national strategy and policy - including the Vision for Justice in Scotland - into action, the CP2328 outlines three key objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People in Scotland's prisons live in establishments that are safe, secure and suitable; 2. The health, wellbeing and care of the people living in Scotland's prisons are more effectively managed, promoted and tailored to individual need; 3. People in Scotland's prisons are better supported to safely follow an individualised pathway towards release, in ways that prioritise public protection. <p>However, CP2328 implementation is occurring at a time when SPS is facing unprecedented challenges; the prison population is increasing at a time of budgetary constraint, with KPI data showing early signs of trends that indicate increasing pressure on the system. One such dataset of interest is the number of people placed on 'Rule 95' (which allows a prison Governor to remove a prisoner from association with the wider prison population; this can be a general removal, or can be related to specific activities) which has increased compared with 2022/23, with more people having been placed on Rule 95 a higher number of times.</p>
Skills required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data cleaning and preparation, analysis and exploration; • Literature / information search and review skills;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good written and oral communication skills; and, • Experience of the use of social research methods.
Timing	The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant in the autumn/winter of 2024.
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;
Hashtags	#prisons; #outcomes; #justice
Targeting	All universities; particular interest may come from the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research.

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Internship title	R20-02 Strengthening the Culture data landscape in Scotland
Directorate General	Strategy and External Affairs
Directorate	Performance, Delivery & Resilience
Division/team	Central Analysis Division
Primary Location	Glasgow
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Jenny Young: jenny.young@gov.scot
Project details	The intern will work towards the main goal, as taken from the Culture Strategy Action Plan, of supporting improvements to the data landscape for culture. They will work closely with an analytical team (comprising of Social Researchers and a statistician) and the Culture Strategy Policy Team. This project is likely to involve a mapping exercise and engagement with the main culture stakeholders in Scotland. However, this is deliberately not a tightly defined project at the moment as we are currently undertaking a reprioritisation exercise to match resources with key sector priorities which may result in some areas of work being deprioritised. For example, depending on needs and interests, this may involve a specific focus on equalities data and will also be defined in close consultation with the team intern to maximise use of their specific skillset in the time available.
Policy Context	A Culture Strategy for Scotland was published in 2020. The accompanying action plan, published in Dec 2023, provides detail on how the ambitions of the Culture Strategy will be delivered. Sitting under the policy pillar of 'Strengthening Culture' there is an action that focuses on reviewing existing evidence and data sources in liaison with key stakeholders to produce a baseline review, which will inform research priorities for the sector going forward. As such, having a focused project in this area will help the policy team to build firm foundations on which to agree genuine research priorities for the sector.
Skills required	"No specialist skills but this is likely to be more suited to someone with statistic/quantitative skills and experience working with large datasets.
Timing	
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;Part time;
Hashtags	arts and culture, policy, quantitative

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Internship title	R20-03 Visualising data for NHS Mental Health Services
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Directorate General	Health and Care
Directorate	Mental Health
Division/team	Data and Digital Unit
Primary Location	Edinburgh, St Andrews House
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Stephen Smith Stephen.Smith@gov.scot and Sarah Martin Sarah.Martin@gov.scot
Project details	<p>The UK NHS Benchmarking Network collects a significant quantity of data on how NHS mental health services are performing. This project will improve the impact of that data by producing analysis and visualisation that can be used by policy makers and NHS colleagues to direct improvement work where it is most needed. The successful candidate will analyse the data that is available, working with policy colleagues to produce topical reports that can be used directly in engagement sessions with NHS Boards and Services. This will be crucial to improving the experience of people in Scotland receiving care across our mental health services. The main opportunities for development in this internship are analysis of large amounts of complex data, communicating analysis with impact, producing visualisations and supporting the development of Government policy. Improving patient experience and reducing unwarranted variation in different parts of the NHS will have a profoundly important impact on the patients that rely on these services.</p>
Policy Context	<p>The Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Core Mental Health Standards set out a number of planned improvements to mental health services to benefit patient outcomes, and reduce unwarranted variation across Scotland. Measurement and transparency of a wide range of performance data are key to delivering on these commitments.</p>
Skills required	Data exploration, visualisation, interpretation and communication skills; experience of using R beneficial but not essential.
Timing	No restrictions
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;Part time;
Hashtags	#NHS #quant #visualisation
Targeting	Open to all, hybrid or fully remote options available (with an in-person initial meeting).

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Internship title	R20-04: Strategic futures analysis: Research support for Horizon Scanning: Scotland 2045
Directorate General	DG Strategy and External Affairs
Directorate	Strategy, Performance, Delivery and Resilience Directorate
Division/team	Central Analysis Division
Primary Location	The post location is flexible. The team works on a hybrid basis, with team members combining homeworking with regular office attendance in Glasgow and sometimes in Edinburgh. Daily office attendance is not a requirement, though some office attendance is encouraged. Applicants who prefer to work in an office will be able to use SG offices in Glasgow or Edinburgh.

Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Ben Cavanagh, ben.cavanagh@gov.scot
Project details	<p>Scottish Government Strategy Division is currently undertaking a 'Horizon Scanning' project, aiming to identify the key long-term trends, risks, opportunities and challenges that will affect Scotland over the next 10-20 years. The project is intended to result in a series of outputs for use in supporting policy makers and leaders as they plan for Scotland's long-term future. The project will also identify areas where 'deep-dive' research is needed to fill gaps in our existing knowledge.</p> <p>This internship will support the Horizon Scanning project through its concluding phase, focusing particularly on support for communication of the findings. The team will be working to turn complex ideas and the large amounts of data we have collected into succinct and impactful messages. The internship will support us to develop clear, insightful and engaging reports, slidepacks, data visualisations and infographics. The intern will also support our work to engage and communicate the findings through workshops and webinars.</p> <p>Depending on the exact timing of the internship, the intern is also likely to support the initial development of follow-up strategic analysis projects, as these emerge from the horizon scanning work, and other strategy analysis tasks that may be required.</p> <p>The postholder will have opportunities to learn about the wider work of the Central Analysis Division, and of the Strategy Division, gaining first hand insights into the development of strategic analysis within Government.</p>
Policy Context	<p>The Central Analysis Division provides analytical support across Scottish Government, and to the Directorate General for Strategy and External Affairs in particular. It contains approximately 35 analysts from social research, statistics, economics and operational analysis professions, and works with teams across government to plan and deliver the government's programme. The division is headed by Dr Audrey MacDougall, the Scottish Government Chief Social Researcher.</p> <p>This role will support the work of the Strategy Division, a team which helps to drive strategy and delivery at the heart of Government. The Strategy Division provides insight and analysis into current and future strategic approaches in order to provide the First Minister, Cabinet and Executive Team with a clear strategic direction. The Division works with a broad range of national and international partners to develop new and innovative ways to address strategic challenges and prepare for the future.</p> <p>This post will provide the intern with exposure and insight of working at the centre of Scottish Government. The role provides an opportunity to see how social science research evidence is collected and translated into decision making, as well an opportunity to support the provision of advice based on analysis and evidence directly to Scottish Ministers and decision makers.</p>

Skills required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills in research communication – the ability to turn complex ideas and large amounts of information into engaging insights • Strong writing skills • Experience in data design or infographic development would be useful • Analytical skills, particularly the ability to assess and synthesise large quantities of information and data • Highly organised with good project management skills • Ability to work in a team
Timing	Preference for the internship to begin in October 2024 if that can be arranged.
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;Part time;
Hashtags	#horizonscanning #strategicfutures #Scotland’sfuture #Scotland2045
Targeting	N/A

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Internship title	R20-05: Show me the money: Using evidence to support fiscally sustainable decisions
Directorate General	DG Scottish Exchequer
Directorate	Exchequer Strategy
Division/team	Fiscal Strategy and Analysis – Analytical Unit
Primary Location	Edinburgh
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Manager of intern (placeholder): Joseph Adams, email: Joseph.Adams@gov.scot; Head of unit and other point of contact: Angela Nolte; email: angela.nolte@gov.scot
Project details	<p>This is an exciting opportunity for a researcher to join an evolving multi-disciplinary analytical team – including economists, social researchers and statisticians - at the heart of the Scottish Exchequer. Our purpose is to foster a stronger data and evidence driven culture and support fiscally sustainable decision making. This is a fast moving part of government with work closely linked to major fiscal events. Therefore, project details will be developed closer to the time, also taking account of your own skills and interests. Essentially, you will help us with work that needs doing, and you will help shape that work. This will likely include analytical support, but potentially could also see you involved in helping to develop policy.</p> <p>You will take ownership of a main project but will also be involved in our day to day work at a time when we will be working towards the delivery of the 2025-26 Budget. This style of work may well provide a contrast to your PhD, will help you build skills in collaborative working, and we hope give you a rounded and enjoyable experience. While the unit works on a range of projects to support the Exchequer, current priorities include: developing analytical tools, data and evidence to shape better budget decisions; making greater use of evaluation and value for money assessments; and equality budgeting.</p>
Policy Context	“Budgets are about choices. They are a distillation of what defines a government, a demonstration in pounds and pence of its priorities

	<p>and its values.” (Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government)</p> <p>The financial situation is amongst the most challenging since devolution. Following on from a decade defined by UK austerity, over the past three years Scotland has faced a succession of economic shocks, with the Covid pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the costs of living crisis all driving significant pressures on the economy, society and the public finances. Ensuring taxpayer money is fully focused on delivering the government’s objectives and assessing value for money is therefore more important than ever.</p> <p>The Scottish Exchequer plays an important part in that as it is responsible for the delivery of the Government’s ambitions and priorities in a fiscally sustainable way. Each year, it sets out two fiscal events: the Scottish Budget which focuses on tax, spending and borrowing decisions for the year ahead as well as the Medium Term Financial Strategy, which sets out the challenges for the public finances over the next five years.</p>
<p>Skills required</p>	<p>If you would like to apply your social science expertise and experience to contribute to the work of DG Scottish Exchequer, we would love to hear from you. These internships are most effective when we match the skills and interest of candidates to the project.</p> <p>We have projects which would require strong quantitative and modelling skills – if this is you, please let us know. However, we also have projects which would involve more qualitative analysis, and we’d like to hear from you, too. We therefore welcome applications from students in any social science discipline.</p> <p>Essential skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good written and oral communication skills • Literature searching, reviewing and synthesising skills – including reviewing papers from a wide range of disciplines and sources • Sufficiently numerate to feel comfortable with complex financial data <p>Desirable skills (depending on project):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of, or interest in, evaluation and/or logic modelling • Knowledge of, or interest in, data visualisation techniques • Basic knowledge of EXCEL • Basic knowledge of R software for statistical computing • Basic knowledge of statistics or data science <p>Candidates should also have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to operate across traditional analytical boundaries and disciplines • Ability to juggle multiple asks and effectively prioritise workloads
<p>Timing</p>	<p>Ideally October but flexible and aware of restrictions/challenges with oracle</p>
<p>Full time, part time or both?</p>	<p>Full time;Part time;</p>
<p>Hashtags</p>	<p>#scottishbudget #fiscalsustainability #evidenceinformedbudgeting</p>

Targeting	Fraser of Allander Institute (Strathclyde)
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Internship title	R20-06 Supporting evidence-informed public engagement on council tax reform
Directorate General	Communities
Directorate	Local Government and Housing
Division/team	Local Government and Analytical Services Division, Local Governance and Reform Research Team
Primary Location	Victoria Quay, Edinburgh
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Rachel Anderson - rachel.anderson3@gov.scot (main contact); manager to be confirmed nearer the time
Project details	<p>Interns will gain an insight into policy development, public engagement processes, and the use of evidence in the Scottish Government. Working as part of the multi-disciplinary Local Government Analytical Unit, the intern will be based in the Local Government and Reform research team, which provides social research support for a wide range of policy areas including local government policy, public procurement policy, and public service reform.</p> <p>This project offers the valuable experience of working on the interface between central and local government. It is intended to support plans for evidence-informed public engagement on Council Tax Reform by enhancing the evidence base, and improving the availability and accessibility of evidence on this topic. The project is likely to involve a review of available evidence on Council Tax Reform, and the development of a suite of analytical products to effectively communicate the council tax reform evidence base to a diverse range of stakeholders. The specific research questions and outputs will be agreed with the intern as part of the internship.</p>
Policy Context	<p>In December 2022, Scottish Ministers convened the Joint Working Group on Sources of Local Government Funding and Council Tax Reform. The group forms part of a new broader partnership with Local Government and is co-chaired by Scottish Ministers and COSLA. The Group initially focused on targeted changes to the present system, and delivered two consultations, both published jointly by Scottish Government and COSLA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Consultation on the Council Tax Treatment of Second and Long-term Empty Homes. • The Fairer Council Tax Consultation <p>The Joint Working Group is now progressing the second phase of its work focused on longer-term reform, including developing and implementing plans for public engagement on the nature of local taxation reform.</p>
Skills required	Expressions of interest are sought from PhD candidates with an interest in applying their social science knowledge and experience to local government policy and analysis.

	The post will require a candidate with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong analytical skills, including the ability to review qualitative and quantitative evidence accurately and efficiently. • Excellent communication skills, particularly the ability to communicate analysis of complex information clearly across a variety of mediums, and for a diverse audience, helping others to make good use of social research evidence.
Timing	Flexible on start date
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;Part time;
Hashtags	#Localtaxation #counciltaxreform #publicengagement #taxation
Targeting	N/A

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Internship title	R20-07 :Building the evidence base to inform development of a cruise ship levy policy
Directorate General	Communities
Directorate	Local Government and Housing
Division/team	Local Government and Analytical Services Division, Local Governance and Reform Research Team
Primary Location	Victoria Quay, Edinburgh
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Rachel Anderson - rachel.anderson3@gov.scot (main contact); manager to be confirmed nearer the time
Project details	<p>Interns will gain an insight to policy development and the use of evidence in the Scottish Government. Working as part of the multi-disciplinary Local Government Analytical Unit, the intern will be based in the Local Government and Reform research team, which provides social research support for a wide range of policy areas including local government, public procurement, and public service reform.</p> <p>This project is intended to enhance the evidence base available to inform the work of the Local Taxation Unit in developing proposals for introduction of a cruise ship levy, in Scotland. Key areas of interest for the research include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case study examples of implementation of cruise ship levies in other jurisdictions • The positive and negative impacts, and any unintended consequences, of introduction of cruise ship levies in other jurisdictions • The basis for the cruise ship levy charges applied in other jurisdictions. <p>While there is scope to tailor the project to the intern's skillset and interests, it is anticipated that a key component of the internship will be conducting a rapid evidence review looking at international examples of cruise ship levies. Work will also need to be undertaken to understand the relevance of the evidence base in relation to the Scottish context, and discuss this with policy and</p>

	<p>other key stakeholders. Other potential activities could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting qualitative research (e.g. through stakeholder interviews and/or focus groups) • Qualitative and quantitative data analysis • Evidence support for development of policy impact assessments.
Policy Context	<p>The Scottish Government has confirmed that it is open to giving local authorities the power to introduce a cruise ship levy, and will be engaging with local authorities, the cruise ship industry, and other stakeholders over the coming months to explore this issue further and develop more detailed proposals.</p> <p>Later in the year, the Scottish Government will look to launch a public consultation, to formally hear the views of those affected by such a levy, and to consider further the impacts on business, local government, and others.</p>
Skills required	<p>Expressions of interest are sought from PhD candidates with an interest in applying their social science knowledge and experience to local government policy and analysis.</p> <p>The post will require a candidate with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong analytical skills (ideally mixed-method research skills), including the ability to review qualitative and quantitative evidence accurately and efficiently. • Good interpersonal, written and oral communication skills • Research project design and management skills.
Timing	Flexible on start date
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;Part time;
Hashtags	<p>#Localgovernment #cruiseships #taxation #cruiseshiplevy #localtaxation</p>
Targeting	N/A

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Internship title	R20-08 Evidence-informed community planning for local impact
Directorate General	Communities
Directorate	Public Service Reform/Local Government and Housing
Division/team	Local Government and Analytical Services Division, Local Governance and Reform Research Team
Primary Location	Victoria Quay, Edinburgh
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Rachel Anderson - rachel.anderson3@gov.scot (main contact); manager to be confirmed nearer the time
Project details	<p>Working as part of the multi-disciplinary Local Government Analytical Unit, the intern will be based in the Local Government and Reform Research Team, which provides social research support for a wide range of policy areas including local government, public procurement, and public service reform.</p> <p>This project is intended to enhance the evidence base available on</p>

	<p>community planning to inform the work of the Place-based service delivery and change unit in this area. Key areas of interest for the research include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community planning’s impact on local outcomes • The features and levers of successful community planning • The challenges and obstacles to successful community planning <p>While the specific focus of the project could be tailored to the intern’s skillset and interests, potential activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical appraisal and synthesis of existing evidence on community planning in Scotland • Conducting qualitative research (e.g. through stakeholder interviews and/or focus groups) • Qualitative and quantitative data analysis
Policy Context	<p>Scotland’s communities are a rich source of energy, creativity and talent. They are made up of people with rich and diverse backgrounds who each have something to contribute to making Scotland flourish. Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 was created to help empower community bodies through the ownership or control of land and buildings, and by strengthening their voices in decisions about public services.</p> <p>The Community Empowerment Act lists all the public bodies which take part in community planning and places duties on them. These bodies form a Community Planning Partnership (CPP) for each local authority area. The CPP must prepare and publish a local outcomes improvement plan (LOIP) which sets out the local outcomes that the CPP will prioritise for improvement. Tackling inequalities will be a specific focus. They must also produce “locality plans” at a more local level for areas experiencing particular disadvantage. The Scottish Government is currently undertaking a review of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to explore if the legislation is doing what it set out to do and if any changes are required.</p>
Skills required	<p>Expressions of interest are sought from PhD candidates with an interest in applying their social science knowledge and experience to community empowerment policy and analysis.</p> <p>The post will require a candidate with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong analytical skills (ideally mixed-method research skills), including the ability to review qualitative and quantitative evidence accurately and efficiently. • Good interpersonal, written and oral communication skills • Research project design and management skills. <p>An interest / knowledge of community empowerment, local governance, policy analysis or related subjects would also be desirable.</p>
Timing	Flexible on start date
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;Part time;
Hashtags	#communityempowerment #communityplanning #localgovernance
Targeting	N/A

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Internship title	R20-09 Scoping of data to help measure Scotland’s progress in fulfilling the rights in UNCRC Articles 37 and 40
Directorate General	Education and Justice
Directorate	Directorate for Learning
Division/team	Children and Families Analysis
Primary Location	Edinburgh
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Dr Dafni Dima – Senior Social Researcher; dafni.dima@gov.scot
Project details	<p>The intern would undertake a short data scoping exercise. This exercise would inform the development of indicators to measure the extent to which Scotland is fulfilling the rights in UNCRC Article 37 (inhumane treatment and detention) and Article 40 (juvenile justice). These indicators should not only provide national data but also allow us to identify whether there are particular groups of children who are furthest from their rights. The aim of the data scoping is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) identify existing data that might be used as indicators to monitor children’s rights in relation to Articles 37 and 40 and assess their value/limitations (b) identify gaps in data where new indicators may need to be developed (c) if feasible, make recommendations about how existing data sources could be strengthened and what new data could be collected and how. <p>The process would involve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Considering the GlobalChild Indicator sets for Articles 37 & 40, which were set out as part of a global initiative to identify universally applicable and relevant UNCRC indicators. This will allow the intern to understand what are considered to be robust structural, process and outcome indicators for articles 37 and 40. 2. A careful reading of the Concluding Observations from the UK’s recent state party examination by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, to identify whether there are any other data that the UN Committee recommended Scotland collects in relation to youth justice. 3. Building on an existing paper (authored by Carol Murphy) entitled “Monitoring of rights when children come into conflict with the law”, examine the available data that could be used as indicators for the rights in Articles 37 and 40 and/or to address the Concluding Observations and critically assess this data. 4. Identifying where there is currently a gap in data to measure the fulfilment of the rights in Articles 37 and 40 and/or to address any Concluding Observations about data on youth justice

	<p>5. Using the above steps to produce a short report that sums the data and any data gaps regarding Articles 37 and 40 and any Concluding Observations about data on youth justice and make recommendations on areas where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we have relevant and robust indicators and sufficient data - we have relevant indicators but data availability is weak/insufficient - we do not have sufficient relevant indicators but data is or could be available - we do not have sufficient relevant indicators and data availability is weak. <p>The intern will work within the Children and Families Analysis team, a team of social researchers. The internship will involve working closely with policy makers and provide analytical input to support the work of the Youth Justice policy Unit and the Children’s Rights Unit, as well as liaise with wider policy teams across Scottish Government Children and Families Directorate in scoping data sources. The internship provides the opportunity to build and increase knowledge of children’s rights and youth justice, and to experience working as a social researcher in the Scottish Government.</p>
Policy Context	<p>One of the drivers of change highlighted in the Theory of Change for Making Children’s Rights Real in Scotland is the development of children’s rights indicators. The Theory of Change report states that the Scottish Government should lead on “developing children’s rights indicators to provide the evidence needed to assess change and guide action” and that “this will help ensure that duty bearers learn where children’s rights are not being realised and where systemic responses are needed”. The UN Committee has also recommended the development of nationally applicable child rights indicators to monitor UNCRC implementation.</p> <p>Recognising the scale and complexity of the work involved in developing indicators for all of the rights in the UNCRC, the UNCRC Strategic Implementation Board has agreed that we focus initially on the development of indicators for those rights which have been identified through our engagement with stakeholders, and require priority attention. Stakeholders have stressed the need for identifying gaps in the data available to effectively monitor rights of children in conflict with the law.</p> <p>One of the outcomes of the Youth Justice vision “A Rights-Respecting Approach to Justice for Children and Young People: Scotland’s Vision and Priorities” is to ensure that we have the required data and evidence on children and young people to inform better policy and practice. The Children’s Rights Improvement Group (CRIG) was set up as a working group to deliver the priorities of the Youth Justice vision relating to children’s rights and participation. In order to advance the availability of data and evidence for Youth Justice, an Indicator Working Group was set up in September 2023 as a subgroup of CRIG and consisting of Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice (CYCJ), Scottish Government officials, academics, and other justice stakeholders.</p> <p>The main aims of the Indicator Working Group are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To identify what we need to monitor in order to assess progress, i.e. what indicators are needed to measure improvements in

	<p>relation to structural factors, process and outcomes.</p> <p>2. To identify where there are gaps in data for effectively monitoring children's rights in Youth Justice.</p> <p>3. To take account of the UN Committee's Concluding Observations and develop a mechanism for monitoring how their recommendations in relation to Youth Justice are being progressed.</p>
Skills required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical skills: ability to analyse and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, understanding of different research methodologies • Evidence synthesis: experience in reviewing, summarising and synthesising evidence and research findings • Communication: writing reports and briefings adopting a neutral, objective and clear style; good oral presentation skill • Organisational skills: ability to self-organise, to plan and manage a variety of tasks.
Timing	No timing restrictions.
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;
Hashtags	#childrensrights #uncrc #youthjustice
Targeting	Open to all students with an interest in data and children's rights.

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Internship title	R20-10: Domestic Homicide and Suicide Review: Using Evidence to Inform Policy Development (Family Involvement)
Directorate General	Education and Justice
Directorate	Safer Communities
Division/team	Justice Analytical Services
Primary Location	Edinburgh
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Tamsyn Wilson, Principal Researcher tamsyn.wilson@gov.scot
Project details	<p>You will be working in Justice Analytical Services, in close collaboration with the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Justice policy team. The focus of the work will be family involvement in Domestic Homicide and Suicide Reviews (DHSRs), specifically to gather evidence on the most effective ways to involve family and friends of the victim in reviews. The project will involve reviewing the (limited) evidence base on family involvement and undertaking primary qualitative research with international experts (e.g. academics and specialist organisations) and/or officials from other countries/review models. This is likely to entail a small number (<10) of key informant interviews and/or group discussions. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to feed the key messages and implications from their work into the various working groups and multiagency Taskforce. It is anticipated that, subject to the relevant quality assurance checks, the final project output will be published as part of the ongoing package of evidence informing the work of the Taskforce. This post offers an excellent opportunity to work at the heart of evidence-based policy making, and engage with a wide range of partner organisations and stakeholders in a high-profile area.</p>
Policy Context	The Scottish Government established a multi-agency Domestic Homicide Review Taskforce in December 2022. The purpose of the

	<p>Taskforce is to provide leadership on the development and implementation of a national multi-agency Domestic Homicide and Suicide Review model for Scotland. A domestic homicide (or suicide) review is a process that aims to learn lessons following a homicide (or suicide) where abuse is suspected, and ensure a voice is given to those who have been killed. This is to assist agencies and organisations to better identify and respond effectively to the risks associated with abuse, to prevent further deaths and to ensure that the victim is kept at the centre. The approach adopted by the Taskforce is an open, transparent, and evidence-based approach. This project will build on a suite of evidence gathered to date and inform future policy development.</p>
Skills required	<p>Successful candidates should be comfortable working in a fast paced environment, and able to manage their time and workload effectively. They should be confident communicators and presenters, with strong qualitative research skills. They must be able to write concisely and in plain English, and produce written work that is of a publishable standard (guidance on social research report styles and quality assurance standards will be provided). We understand that the subject matter for this internship is sensitive and can be upsetting. The Scottish Government values the wellbeing of all staff and will support the successful candidate in maintaining their wellbeing during their internship.</p>
Timing	Anticipated start of early Nov.
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;
Hashtags	#domestic abuse #violence against women and girls #policy #crime #justice
Targeting	No.

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Internship title	R20-11: Who is supplying Scotland? Qualitative analysis of public sector contractors
Directorate General	Corporate/ Communities
Directorate	Public Procurement and Property/ Local Government and Housing
Division/team	Local Government and Analytical Services Division, Local Governance and Reform Research Team
Primary Location	Glasgow
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Colin Forber, colin.forber@gov.scot
Project details	<p>The intern will work within the Scottish Procurement and Properties Directorate (SPPD), and the Local Government and Reform research team. This research team provides social research support for a wide range of policy areas including public procurement, local government, public service reform, and asylum and refugee integration.</p> <p>The project detailed here will focus mainly on the qualitative analysis of primary data collected through the Public Procurement Survey of Suppliers, last run in 2020. The survey is designed to capture the perspectives of suppliers of public sector contracts in</p>

	Scotland on the end-to-end procurement related processes, guidance and training, and obstacles. The intern will work with both the lead researcher within procurement, and the procurement policy team. What the intern finds will directly impact on policies related to how goods, works and services are procured in Scotland.
Policy Context	<p>Suppliers of public sector contracts keep essential public services running. They provide the medicines used by the NHS, they build Scotland's roads and infrastructure, and they provide ICT equipment and support to all public sector bodies. In 2021-22, these contracts accounted for £16 billion in public sector spending.</p> <p>Since the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, the Scottish Government has viewed public procurement as a vehicle to promote inclusive economic growth, create opportunities for all, and support and accelerate a just transition towards a net zero economy, among other benefits. The Act lays out the requirement for public bodies to undertake regular reporting on their procurement activities. The forms of societal benefit required of that reporting is laid out in the Public Procurement Strategy for Scotland (2023-2028), and is based on the following four overarching themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good for businesses and employees • good for society • good for places and communities • open and connected
Skills required	<p>Expressions of interest are sought from PhD candidates with an interest in applying their social science knowledge and experience to government policy and analysis.</p> <p>The post will require a candidate with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong analytical skills, including the ability to review qualitative evidence accurately and efficiently. • Good interpersonal, written and oral communication skills <p>An interest / knowledge of the political economy, policy analysis, service delivery or other related subjects would also be desirable.</p>
Timing	Flexible on start date
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;Part time;
Hashtags	#procurement #qualitative #policy #inclusive_growth
Targeting	N/A

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Internship title	R20-12 : SAS to R migration and accessibility improvements for a major National Statistics publication
Directorate General	National Records of Scotland (NRS)
Directorate	Demographic Statistics
Division/team	Vital Events
Primary Location	Edinburgh/Dundee/remote
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Riya Atanasova riya.atanasova@gov.scot

Project details	<p>The Vital Events team produces a number of annual, quarterly, monthly, and weekly statistical publications relating to different life events, such as births, adoptions, stillbirths, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths. One of our largest and most high-profile annual publications is the Reference Tables that provides data for all life events. For this reason, the publication generates a lot of interest from stakeholders every year.</p> <p>This publication is currently produced in SAS, however, we would like to move the source code over to an open source method as soon as possible. The project will thus involve migrating code for the publication in R while also adhering to accessibility principles to ensure the tables are produced in an accessible format. The successful candidate will mostly work independently with support from the team when needed. They will also be able to access resources to help with achieving the objectives of the project. The internship will be remote, however, the candidate will be able to go into one of the NRS offices in Edinburgh at their own will. The team currently meets for in-office days monthly but individual colleagues work from the office more frequently.</p>
Policy Context	Statistics on vital events generate a lot of interest from policy colleagues, especially those relating to mortality. We work closely with a number of policy areas in the Scottish Government. The candidate is not required to engage with policy colleagues unless they are interested in getting more experience in this area.
Skills required	Strong coding skills in R and ability to work independently to solve technical problems are essential for this post. Experience of working in SAS is desirable.
Timing	No timing restrictions, candidate being able to start ASAP will be very helpful.
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;Part time;
Hashtags	#R #analysis #statistics #datascience
Targeting	Project is open to students from all universities in Scotland.

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Internship title	R20-13 : Evaluating the impact of the Five Family Payments
Directorate General	Communities
Directorate	Tackling Child Poverty and Social Justice
Division/team	Communities Analysis Division: Social Security Analysis, Forecasting and Evaluation
Primary Location	Edinburgh
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	John Mowbray john.mowbray@gov.scot
Project details	<p>The Five Family Payments (FFP) evaluation is being managed by the Research and Evaluation team in Social Security Analysis Forecasting and Evaluation. The team consists of social researchers who cover research and evaluation for all the devolved benefits.</p> <p>The FFPs are Scottish Child Payment, Best Start Grant (comprised of Baby Payment, Early Learning Payment and School Age Payment), and Best Start Foods.</p>

	<p>Interim evaluations were carried out for each benefit. These were primarily qualitative in nature and focused on: process outcomes (i.e. the promotion, take up and administration of the benefits); and short-term policy outcomes (i.e. the initial impact of receiving the benefits).</p> <p>The next phase of evaluation will involve (a) re-assessing performance against process and short-term policy outcomes with up-to-date data, and (b) evaluating the impact of the benefits in more detail, including progress towards medium-term policy outcomes.</p> <p>The approach is based on an extended model of evaluation outlined in the strategy for evaluating the devolved benefits. This means that as well as collecting new primary data for this evaluation, a wider range of existing data sources are also available. This includes, but is not limited to: Social Security Scotland Client Survey; Official Statistics; Client Diversity and Equalities analysis; Labour Market Data; Population surveys; and Academic research.</p> <p>The intern's role would likely involve the following tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conducting a more detailed, intersectional analysis of survey data collected by the contractor as part of the commissioned research, focusing on factors such as gender, ethnicity and disability. 2. Identifying, assessing and analysing data from the wider range of existing sources mentioned above, allowing for the contribution of these sources to be strengthened. 3. Contributing to the draft evaluation report, synthesising data from both the contracted research and wider data sources.
<p>Policy Context</p>	<p>The Scotland Act 2016 devolved new powers over social security to the Scottish Parliament and gave the Scottish Government the power to create new benefits and top up existing ones. The Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 sets out the framework for the operation of devolved social security powers. The Five Family Payments are designed to help people on low incomes who meet the eligibility criteria with the costs of supporting a family</p> <p>The FFPs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Child Payment (SCP): Launched in November 2020, it is a weekly sum of £26.70 for every child aged under 16, paid every four weeks to the person looking after the child (or to their partner). • Best Start Grant (BSG): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Pregnancy and Baby Payment: Launched in December 2018, it is a payment of £754.65 on the birth of the first child and £377.35 on the birth of any subsequent children, to help with the costs of having a baby. o Early Learning Payment: Launched in April 2019, it is a payment of £314.45 for children between 2 and 3.5 years old to support child development. o School Age Payment: Launched in June 2019, it is a payment of £314.45 to help with the costs of preparing for school.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Start Foods (BSF): Launched in August 2019, it is a four-weekly payment, provided via a prepaid card, which is designed to make nutritious foods more affordable for low income families. <p>Social security payments have the potential to reduce child poverty by providing low income families with increased regular income (SCP), providing additional financial support at key transition points such as starting school (BSG), and making healthy foods more affordable (BSF). Together SCP, BSG and BSF are known as the FFPs. The FFPs are key Scottish Government measures contributing towards the national mission to tackle child poverty.</p>
Skills required	An individual with quantitative skills would be preferred, preferably with knowledge of population surveys. Familiarity with statistical software (e.g. Excel and R) is also desirable.
Timing	November would be preferable in order for analysis to be undertaken in time for final report.
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;
Hashtags	#devolvedbenefits #socialsecurity #childpoverty
Targeting	n/a

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Internship title	R20-14: Reactive project in support of Drugs Policy and the National Mission on Drugs
Directorate General	Health and Social Care
Directorate	Population Health
Division/team	Health and Social Care Analysis
Primary Location	Edinburgh
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Anniek Sluiman
Project details	SGSSS internships present invaluable opportunities for analytical outputs to be produced that are reactive and supportive to rapidly changing policy needs. As such, the outputs of these internships are likely to be of great relevance and value to the work of policy colleagues and present opportunity to have real impact on decision making. With this in mind, we will develop the specific focus of this project closer to when the internship is due to start. We will also try to offer a choice of the project that they undertake and ensure the project is shaped around the skills of the candidate. Previous research projects have included evidence/data reviews, surveys, mapping exercises and interviewing.
Policy Context	In January 2021 the First Minister announced a new National Mission to reduce drug deaths and harms supported by an additional £50 million funding per year over the lifetime of this Parliament (2021 to 2026). The aim of the National Mission is to reduce drug deaths and improve the lives of those impacted by drugs. We will do this by preventing people from developing problem drug use; reducing harms from the consumption of drugs; getting more people into high quality treatment and recovery services; addressing the needs of people with multiple and complex

	needs and supporting families and communities affected by problem drug use.
Skills required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to critically review and synthesise information. • Report writing, including the ability to write for different audiences and in plain English. • Strong verbal communication skills, as the post will involve working with Scottish Government colleagues and presenting to stakeholders. • Ability to quickly develop an understanding of the policy context around problem substance use.
Timing	N/A
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;Part time;
Hashtags	#substanceuse #druguse #nationalmission
Targeting	N/A

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Internship title	R20-15: Improving the evidence base for Community Link Workers
Directorate General	DG Health and Social Care
Directorate	Directorate of Population Health
Division/team	Health and Social Care Analysis
Primary Location	Edinburgh
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Analytical lead: Emma Milburn emma.milburn@gov.scot; Policy lead: Fiona MacDonald fiona.macdonald2@gov.scot;
Project details	<p>Community Link Workers (CLWs) provide a vital service to people needing support with issues such as debt, housing and loneliness, particularly in areas of Scotland where poverty and inequality contribute to poor health. This internship is an opportunity to work closely with Scottish Government policy teams, Public Health Scotland and the Scottish Community Link Worker Network (SCLWN) hosted by Voluntary health Scotland to build a better understanding of the work of CLWs across Scotland and their contribution to tackling health inequalities. The project will contribute to recommendations for future monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>The project will build on previous work undertaken by Public Health Scotland and 2023 research by the SCLWN which has assessed the current range and scope of CLW programmes across Scotland. The internship will focus on developing this evidence base by building a consensus view of a minimum core dataset required to monitor CLW activity. It will also involve working with analysts and the CLW network as they develop a proposal for future evaluation activity. The intern would be co-located within General Practice</p>

	<p>Policy Division and Health and Social Care Analysis Division, both within the Scottish Government. The General Practice policy division has policy responsibility for the CLW programme and health inequalities in Primary Care more widely. Health and Social Care Analysis comprises statisticians, researchers, economists and operational researchers and provides evidence and analysis for Ministers and policy teams to inform health and social care policy across Health and Social Care.</p>
Policy Context	<p>Community Link Workers are an essential component of the Scottish Government's efforts to tackle health inequalities, especially in our most disadvantaged areas. There are over 300 CLWs working as part of multidisciplinary teams in primary care, and they are usually embedded in or connected to a GP practice. They work with patients to develop solutions to social and economic challenges the patient is facing as an individual's health is largely determined by socioeconomic factors. They have an important role in preventing ill health which is caused by poverty and social exclusion. The resources and services that CLWs connect people with can be anything from ensuring they can access financial, housing and welfare support through to engagement with cultural activity, community cafés, or opportunities to be physically active, depending on the individual's needs. CLWs also help people navigate the health and social care system.</p> <p>The Scottish Government has recently started a review of CLW policy and service delivery which will include work to improve the consistency and quality of locally collected data and the data available at the national level. This is important as we need to monitor and understand the impacts that CLWs have on the people they support and on the other professionals in the general practice teams they work with, including GPs, as well as how they contribute to the wider health care system. The internship project will help us with this work.</p>
Skills required	<p>This project would suit someone who has an interest in health inequalities and who is keen to apply their skills to a practical project focused on 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong written and oral communication skills; • Wide experience of the use of social research methods, including questionnaire design; • An ability to analyse and synthesise varied data and evidence; • An ability to work independently and flexibly as part of a team. <p>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.</p>
Timing	<p>We are looking for this internship to start in January 2025, although the exact timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant.</p>
Full time, part time or both?	<p>Full time;Part time;</p>
Hashtags	<p>#NHS #Healthinequalities #Socialprescribing</p>
Targeting	<p>This project is likely to be of interest to a wide range of students/universities.</p>

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Internship title	R20-16: Engaging with low-income families in place-based anti-poverty initiatives
Directorate General	Communities
Directorate	Tackling Child Poverty and Social Justice
Division/team	Communities Analysis Division, Equality and Social Justice Analysis, Poverty Research
Primary Location	Edinburgh or Glasgow
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Tracey Hughes, tracey.hughes@gov.scot
Project details	<p>Child poverty is the key government priority for the First Minister. The successful intern will work across the Poverty and Place-based Research Teams. These teams provide social research and analytical support on poverty policies, with a special focus on child poverty. This requires close engagement and collaboration with analytical and policy colleagues across Scottish Government.</p> <p>Evidence to date suggests that targeted engagement strategies can work best to reach low-income families. However, there are facilitators and barriers to doing this effectively, and our learnings from place-based, system change initiatives to tackle child poverty identifies the need for further exploration of how to successfully engage with potential service users, especially those who have not accessed or have had negative experiences accessing services before (including e.g. child poverty priority families; people with protected characteristics).</p> <p>The successful intern will play an important role in the wider evaluation of systems change and place-based initiatives that aim to tackle child poverty. In particular, this research project aims to explore and assess the various engagement methods used with potential users of support services. This means, identifying what is working, what is not working, what needs to happen to improve effectiveness, which families are being reached and conversely which families are not being reached and why.</p> <p>Specifically, the project will entail:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A review of published evaluation evidence from initiatives across Scottish Government to understand and assess how well families living in poverty / low-income families are engaged in the context of place-based, systems change initiatives and what the gaps and barriers are 2. Working alongside the lead researcher to engage with Scottish Government colleagues and local partners and stakeholders, through workshops and interviews, to understand the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches and discover innovative practice in this area. This may entail the development of discussion guides to engage with stakeholders, assisting with interviews/workshops, developing a coding framework and undertaking analysis and reporting. <p>The anticipated outputs of this project are:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a chapter to feed into the wave 2 system change report (to be published in Summer 2025) • a short, summary, good practice guide for engaging with potential users of place-based, system change initiatives which seek to tackle child poverty. This could be used by local partners across existing and new system change initiatives. <p>The outputs will be of high quality and of a publishable standard.</p> <p>There will also be opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To present the key findings to Scottish Government analytical and policy colleagues • For the learnings from this project to feed into the next, and final, Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan to be published in early 2026.
Policy Context	<p>The second Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, Best Start, Bright Futures, was published in 2022. This is the second plan which helps us measure our progress towards the statutory child poverty targets.</p> <p>This Plan recognised the need to deliver differently to meet the 2030 child poverty targets and committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring that the support people need to move out of poverty is joined up; • partnership working and a place-based approach, based in the distinctive needs of communities; and • holistic and person-centred support that wraps around the needs of the individual or family. <p>It committed to a number of initiatives focused on delivering this 'system change' and testing different approaches to providing person-centred solutions for families in poverty.</p> <p>To understand the effectiveness of system change initiatives in addressing child poverty we have set out an evaluation approach to system change. The work undertaken by the intern will form part of Phase Two of this work.</p>
Skills required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of conducting qualitative research, e.g. developing tools, conducting interviews and running workshops • Highly confident in understanding, analysing and interpreting qualitative evidence • Excellent written and oral communication skills, including synthesising different types of evidence into concise and accessible reports • Awareness of the role of research in policy making
Timing	<p>The timing of the internship will be agreed with the successful applicant in the spring/summer of 2024. However, we anticipate the internship starting around October 2024 and lasting for three months, until around December 2024. Unless the internship is completed on a part-time basis in which case the period will be extended.</p>
Full time, part time or both?	<p>Full time;Part time;</p>
Hashtags	<p>#childpoverty #placebased #engagement #policydesign #qualitative #crossgovernment</p>
Targeting	<p>All universities</p>

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Internship title	R20-17: Measuring palliative care experiences
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Directorate General	DG Health and Social Care
Directorate	Directorate of Population Health
Division/team	Health and Social Care Analysis
Primary Location	Edinburgh
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Nadine Thomas, nadine.thomas@gov.scot
Project details	<p>Scotland's new palliative care strategy is being developed with the aim that, "Everyone in Scotland receives well-coordinated, timely and high-quality palliative care, care around death and bereavement support based on their needs and preferences including support for families and carers."</p> <p>This internship offers an exciting opportunity to shape the implementation of the palliative care strategy through the use of data to support future planning decisions, particularly at the operational level. Measuring quality of care experience is an important component of improving experiences of palliative care for those who receive care and those close to them. While these data may be collected at a local level, national level data on palliative care experiences are limited. However, there are growing international examples of sensitively designed data collection in this area. This project will involve a review of methodologies, local and international, and assess their applicability to a Scottish context.</p> <p>The successful applicant will join the Clinical Priorities Analytical team, within the Health and Social Care Analysis Division. They will be supported by the Strategy Steering Group and policy team in Palliative and End of Life Care in Scottish Government. They will work collaboratively with the Evidence, Experience and Outcomes Working Group, which includes clinicians, service managers, and third sector stakeholders, and through this group communicate their findings across sectors and professions.</p> <p>The project will involve a rapid review of patient-reported experience measures used in palliative care settings, including in Ireland and Australia. This review will be combined with analysis of interviews with key stakeholders to gain insight about the practicalities of implementing data collection in Scotland. Scottish Government will provide support to identify key stakeholders connected to existing strategy working groups. The output of the project will be a report, which will be published on the Scottish Government website, summarising findings and recommendations for the Strategy Steering Group for data developments to consider.</p>
Policy Context	<p>A new strategy for palliative care in Scotland is due to be consulted on over summer 2024, with a final strategy published around the end of the year. This will provide an update on the previous Strategic Framework for Action on Palliative and End of Life Care 2016-2021; with a refreshed focus on delivery, improving palliative care experience and the evidence base that underpins it. The strategy also contributes to and is informed by the aims of the National Care Service, the Care Homes Framework and other programmes within the Care and Wellbeing Portfolio (including place of care, preventive and proactive care, integrated planned care, and integrated urgent and unscheduled care).</p>

	<p>Engagement and consultation has been a key part of strategy development, with priorities informed by the strategy steering group, reference group, working groups, associated networks and people with lived experience. One of the priority areas that has been identified to date is around monitoring and evaluation, including the measurement of outcomes including people's experiences.</p> <p>Measurement of outcomes of people's healthcare experiences is a complex and rapidly growing research area. There are particular dimensions to the gathering of experiential data in relation to palliative care that make it challenging, including sensitivity of the topic, that care can be delivered across a number of settings (specialist, primary health care, community and home-based care) and the dynamic nature of advancing illness. In taking a whole systems/ public health approach to planning and delivery, agreeing important outcomes for patients, families and carers, professionals, and delivery providers, and how to measure them, is a critical part of monitoring the strategy.</p>
	<p>This project would suit someone who is keen to apply their skills to an applied project focused on health policy implementation. Knowledge of the health and social care landscape would be useful, however excellent analytical skills are more important than any prior subject knowledge. The following are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of strengths and limitations of different research methods and approaches, including data access and ethics issues • The ability to critically review and synthesise information • Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including interviewing skills and communicating analysis in plain English • Initiative - the candidate will be fully supported within the team, but will be motivated to work with autonomy at their own initiative • Ability to quickly develop an understanding of the policy and practice context of palliative and end of life care
Skills required	
Timing	October/ November 2024 start
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;
Hashtags	#PalliativeCare #Death #Dying #Bereavement #Data #Quality
Targeting	University of Glasgow University of Dundee University of Stirling St Andrews University University of Edinburgh

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Internship title	R20-18: Engaging with fishers in decision making processes: A review of international approaches to regional and local inshore fisheries management
Directorate General	Net Zero
Directorate	Marine Directorate
Division/team	Marine Analytical Unit / Marine Economy and Communities Portfolio
Primary Location	Edinburgh (flexible)

Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Inga Freimane from Marine Analytical Unit and Helen Downie, Marine Economy and Communities Portfolio
Project details	<p>The Marine Directorate’s inshore fisheries policy team seeks an intern to conduct an international literature review of approaches to regional and local fisheries co-management in inshore fisheries sectors and approaches to include fisher voices in decision making.</p> <p>This review will draw together learning, strengths and weaknesses on regional and local co-management approaches being used in other countries, to help inform a transformational project to transition Scottish inshore fisheries management into a more responsive, agile and regional model. It will also build on the findings of a substantive in-house review of Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups (RIFGs) that MAU is currently conducting which will be reporting later this year. This internship will help us to gather further information and evidence to support any changes in the approach that we may wish to introduce.</p> <p>The intern will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct an international literature search, using a range of research engines including the SG library literature search services, sourcing a wide range of literature and data sources (published documents including academic literature, government and other reports, articles, think pieces and relevant grey literature); - Read and summarise relevant literature and produce a thematic synthesis of key findings; - Identify potential models/examples of regionalised co-management models that have been shown to work well in other countries and cover strengths, weaknesses and any lessons learned from models used in other countries; - Write up findings in a short report which will include a full bibliography of source literature, with links; - Produce a short presentation of findings to deliver to key policy colleagues at the end of the project. <p>The intern will have the opportunity to work with analysts and policy officials across the Marine Directorate. They will be based in the Marine Analytical Unit but will work closely day to day with the inshore fisheries policy team giving them an opportunity to observe first-hand the work of a policy team and the integration of evidence into ministerial and policy priorities. This is an exciting time to work in the Marine Directorate with a friendly team.</p>
Policy Context	<p>Scotland’s inshore fisheries make an important contribution to the economic and cultural fabric of our coastal communities. Around 80% of Scotland’s 2,000+ registered fishing vessels operate in our inshore waters, fishing primarily for high quality shellfish, destined for export markets. Our diverse inshore fishing fleet operates amid increasingly complicated and overlapping interactions with offshore renewable energy developments, aquaculture, and environmental protections like our Marine Protected Area network.</p> <p>The Fisheries Management Strategy 2020-2030 sets out the Scottish Government’s approach to managing Scotland sea-fisheries. A key aim in the strategy is to strengthen co-management processes and support transparent and responsive management at</p>

	<p>a local level where-ever possible. One of the key challenges is to manage fisheries in a way that can achieve the complicated balance between socio-economic and environmental outcomes, in the context of commitments to Net Zero, environmental sustainability and bio-diversity outcomes as set out in the SG Blue Economy Vision.</p> <p>Co-management approaches can offer an effective way of bringing key stakeholders together to ensure that local issues and priorities are understood and considered in fisheries management decisions. Where-ever possible the Marine Directorate works in partnership with key stakeholders utilising established structures including the Fisheries Management and Conservation group (FMAC), FMAC Inshore Subgroup and Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (RIFGs). These structures aim to give fishers a voice in inshore fisheries management and wider marine matters. However, many fishers are hard to reach and may not engage well, whilst inshore management is an emotive issue with conflicting and often polarised views.</p> <p>The SG is keen to explore how stakeholder engagement and reach can be optimised to support effective co-management of Scotland's inshore fisheries, by considering models tried and tested elsewhere.</p>
Skills required	<p>Strong social research and analytical skills. Experience of conducting international literature reviews using a range of data bases. A good understanding of both qualitative and quantitative social research evidence and data. Excellent written and oral communications skills. Ability to work flexibly in a busy team at pace. Ability to manage several tasks at the same time. Some knowledge and understanding of the marine environment and/or the commercial inshore fishery industry in Scotland/ UK is desirable.</p>
Timing	<p>We anticipate the internship starting around October 2024 (and potentially later in the year depending on student preferences). The exact dates of the internship will be agreed with the student.</p>
Full time, part time or both?	<p>Full time;Part time;</p>
Hashtags	<p>#marine #scottishseafisheries #inshorefishingindustry</p>
Targeting	<p>SAMS, Heriot Watt, University of Highlands and Islands</p>

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Internship title	R20-19: NCS Future Workforce: Culture, Leadership and Integration
Directorate General	DG Health and Social Care
Directorate	Directorate For Social Care And National Care Service Development
Division/team	Adult Social Care Workforce & Fair Work Division/National Care Service Future Workforce
Primary Location	Glasgow

Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Anna Caceres <Anna.Caceres@gov.scot> / Connie Hendry <Connie.Hendry@gov.scot>
Project details	<p>In order to achieve the goals of the NCS there is a need to further investigate the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the national/systems level help in defining and managing Culture, Leadership and Integration? • What theories of change can be articulated and applied to understand how change leads the workforce to feel recognised and valued for their contribution? • What interventions are possible and practical? <p>The successful candidate will be based in the NCS Future Workforce Unit and the project will require collaboration across a range of internal Scottish Government colleagues and wider external stakeholders across a complex landscape. The method to developing this further knowledge and research is flexible. The specific project will be determined based on the policy priorities at the time and the intern's own skills and expertise. Possible areas of focus may include: providing a synthesis of relevant learning from other sectors, working with partner organisation to develop case studies, or undertaking further analysis of the data generated through co-design.</p>
Policy Context	<p>The Scottish Government is working with people and organisations across the country to introduce the National Care Service (NCS) to improve community health, social work and social care support in Scotland. We are designing the NCS in partnership with stakeholders and experts – people with lived experience of the service, people accessing care and support, their families, unpaid carers, the workforce, NHS management and clinical staff, local government, the NHS and other key partners.</p> <p>The NCS will allow us to improve standards across the board, including in relation to the workforce, without whom the NCS cannot exist. By supporting and valuing the workforce to deliver the best possible service for the people of Scotland, we will make the sector fit for the future. One of the key aims is to ensure that health, social work and social care is integrated. To improve integration; there's a need to create a strong and attractive organisational culture to drive person-centred care; and enable the workforce to feel recognised for their contribution.</p>
Skills required	<p>Essential Skills: Excellent analytical and use of evidence skills; Clear and effective verbal and written communication; Collaboration and team working and the ability to maintain trust and credibility;</p> <p>Desirable Skills: Experience of health and social care literature or field of people and organisations; An interest in understanding the broader strategic context and how different policies are interconnected; Time management skills with the ability to be responsible for personal behaviour</p>
Timing	N/A

Full time, part time or both?	Full time;
Hashtags	#NCS #workforce #culture
Targeting	University of the West of Scotland

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Internship title	R20-20 Social research to support the development of the next phase of the Women's Health Plan (WHP)
Directorate General	Health and Social Care
Directorate	Population Health
Division/team	Health and Social Care Analysis: Population Health Unit
Primary Location	Edinburgh
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Eilidh Currie (main contact), manager to be confirmed nearer the time
Project details	<p>The intern will contribute to a programme of analytical work being undertaken to support the development of the next phase of the Women's Health Plan, providing a robust evidence base to inform policy development in this area. The intern will specifically focus on collation and review of research related to women's health, published since 2021 in particular, identifying key findings and relaying these to the Women's Health Plan policy team. The intern will also analyse existing published data relating to women's health to provide an overview of women's health in Scotland today, in particular updating data used in the 2021 Women's Health Plan to ensure it is accurate and relevant.</p> <p>Other project work will depend on priorities at the time of the internship as well as the specific interests and skills of the intern, but is likely to include: supporting the development of indicators/logic modelling; analysing and synthesising qualitative and quantitative data; writing concise reports clearly identifying key findings and messages; and helping policy colleagues to understand and use the evidence appropriately.</p> <p>The intern will be based within the Health, Attitudes, Behaviours and Inequalities Team (HABIT) which provides analytical support primarily across a range of population health areas including alcohol and tobacco harm prevention; diet, physical activity and healthy weight; and health inequalities. The intern will work closely with the Women's Health Plan Team, as well as other policymakers and analysts across Health and Social Care Analysis.</p> <p>Interns will gain an insight to policy development and the use of evidence in Scottish Government in a busy multi-disciplinary analytical team supporting a wide range of public health concerns.</p>
Policy Context	<p>Scotland was the first country in the UK to have a Women's Health Plan. The aim of the Plan is to improve health outcomes and services for all women and girls in Scotland. It is underpinned by the acknowledgement that women face particular health inequalities and, in some cases, disadvantages because they are women.</p> <p>The current Plan was published in 2021. It covers a 3 year period and set out 66 actions to reduce inequalities in health outcomes</p>

	affecting women, including raising awareness around women's health, improving access to health care and reducing inequalities in health outcomes for girls and women, both for sex-specific conditions and in women's general health.
Skills required	<p>No specialist skills are required, but the following are expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methods - Experience of quantitative and/or qualitative (preferably both) research design, data collection and analysis - Understanding of evaluation methods - Ability to synthesise and analyse large amounts of information and data - Ability to write clearly and concisely for different audiences - Good interpersonal and team-working skills - Ability to work to tight deadlines and good organisational skills <p>An interest / knowledge of health research, particularly public health and gender or another health-related subject is desirable.</p>
Timing	No restrictions - as soon as possible
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;Part time;
Hashtags	#womenshealth #research #inequalities #gender #health
Targeting	N/A

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Internship title	R20-21 Developing the evidence base on childcare (for children aged 9 months to 11 years)
Directorate General	Education and Justice
Directorate	Learning
Division/team	Children and Families Analysis (Education Analytical Services)
Primary Location	Edinburgh (hybrid)
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Gillian Achurch - Gillian.Achurch@gov.scot
Project details	<p>Scottish Government has committed to better understanding and testing how to deliver high-quality, local, affordable and accessible childcare for children aged 9 months to the end of primary school, which supports family wellbeing and employment and helps lift families out of poverty. We are working to build our evidence base in this area and are seeking an intern to help us with this. The project will involve gathering, critically evaluating and summarising evidence from a range of sources to fill identified evidence gaps. These will be confirmed and agreed at the outset of the project, but are likely to include evidence on childcare experiences, barriers and needs for marginalised groups such as minority ethnic and disabled mothers and carers. We would then like the intern to produce engaging, clear and concise outputs summarising the key evidence for policymakers. This would involve consulting with the intended users to scope out their needs and ensuring that the final output is as useful as possible in informing policymaking decisions.</p> <p>The intern will sit within the Childcare Research team in Children and Families Analysis, and work alongside the School Age Childcare and Early Learning and Childcare policy teams. This</p>

	internship would be an exciting opportunity to contribute to developing our evidence base in this area, and to ensure that this evidence is easily available and useable for policymakers during this period of innovative policy development.
Policy Context	<p>Four 'Early Adopter Communities' in Scotland (Clackmannanshire, Dundee, Inverclyde and Glasgow) have been developing local, people-centred systems of school-age childcare since October 2022. The aim of these Early Adopting Communities is to improve the lives of families most at risk of poverty, and to learn and understand what is needed at a local level to fund and deliver childcare for families. Scottish Government's School Age Childcare Delivery Framework sets out this work in more detail, including the people-centred, place-based approach being taken.</p> <p>In the 2023-24 Programme for Government we committed to establishing two new Early Adopter Communities in Fife and Shetland, which are now in planning stages. The Programme for Government also committed to expanding the scope of Early Adopter Communities to include children from 9 months old to the end of primary school, as a key part of developing the evidence base to support our understanding of what younger children need from childcare, including family support models.</p>
Skills required	<p>Essential skills required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to critically and accurately evaluate and synthesise evidence from a range of sources; experience of conducting literature reviews including evidence from a range of sources (including grey literature) - Excellent communication skills, including the ability to summarise large amounts of evidence into concise and accessible written outputs for a non-academic audience - Ability to work independently and to deadlines, with good project and workload management skills - Either an interest in / knowledge of childcare, education, tackling poverty and/or systems change, or the ability to quickly develop an understanding of this policy context <p>Desirable skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good oral presentation skills - Ability to produce visually engaging outputs tailored to specific audience needs - Good understanding of gender equality and intersectionality
Timing	To begin between October and December 2024
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;
Hashtags	#childcare #poverty #evidencereview
Targeting	Applicable to all.

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Internship title	R20-22: Mapping Scotland's Food System: Synthesizing high-level indicator data to assist in monitoring the outcomes of Scotland's first Good Food Nation Plan
Directorate General	DG Net Zero
Directorate	Directorate for Environment and Forestry
Division/team	Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services (RESAS)
Primary Location	Saughton House

Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Philip Duffy/Minna Linpaa (Philip.Duffy@gov.scot; Minna.Linpaa@gov.scot)
Project details	<p>The successful candidate will provide analytical support for the Good Food Nation Plan (see policy context for more information). This will involve identifying, appraising and collating quantitative data across a range of food related policy areas that will be used to inform a baseline for monitoring future progress against the outcomes of the Plan to allow for the future monitoring of the Plan. The successful candidate will have strong quantitative analytical skills and a strong working knowledge of a quantitative software.</p> <p>The successful candidate will be part of the Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services (RESAS) which is an extensive Analytical Service Division (ASD) providing support on issues related to agriculture, food and drink, land use, rural communities, and the environment, for example. They would be placed in the Agriculture, Food and Drink Analysis (AFDA) unit within RESAS. The successful candidate will have the excellent opportunity of working across analytical professions as AFDA is made up of social researchers, economists, operational researchers and a statistician.</p>
Policy Context	<p>The Scottish Government published a new food and drink policy in 2014 - Becoming a Good Food Nation. This set out a vision for Scotland to be “a Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day”. A non-statutory Scottish Food Commission was formed in February 2015, and the Commission recommended the introduction of framework legislation to bring the great variety of food-related work already underway across government together under a single umbrella.</p> <p>This framework legislation now exists in the form of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022. Under the Act, Scottish Ministers are required to produce a national Good Food Nation Plan which sets out the Government’s goals for food policy and how it intends to achieve them. The first National Good Food Nation Plan was published in January 2024 and has recently been out for public consultation. The Plan sets out six over-arching outcomes for a Good Food Nation.</p>
Skills required	<p>Strong quantitative analytical skills Strong quant software package skills (e.g. Excel, R) Strong communication skills (oral and written)</p>
Timing	November 2024 to February 2025
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;
Hashtags	#foodanddrink #goodfoodnation #quants
Targeting	Glasgow and Edinburgh

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Internship title	R20-23: Climate Adaptation and Agriculture: Synthesising the Evidence Base for Effective Policy Making
Directorate General	Net Zero
Directorate	ENFOR

Division/team	RESAS - AFDA - Agricultural Economics
Primary Location	Edinburgh
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Richard Haw richard.haw@gov.scot
Project details	<p>The aim of this project is to synthesise available evidence on climate adaptation in the agriculture sector to support policy development and analysis in this space. It will collate evidence on climate adaptation in the agriculture sector, considering the current and expected impacts of climate change in Scotland and key actions farmers and crofters can take to best minimise risks and maximise opportunities. It will consider how farmers can both adapt their own business and land as well as how their actions might support adaptation across the wider landscape and community.</p> <p>The project will provide evidence on policy interventions that can best support and encourage farmers and crofters to adapt to climate change and consolidate available information on the costs and benefits of adaptation action. It is expected to involve a review of scientific and grey literature and the production of a concise, written report. The intern leading on this project will have the opportunity to work closely with policy and analytical colleagues throughout the project.</p>
Policy Context	<p>The climate is already changing and while we continue to take action to mitigate climate change, we must also ensure that Scotland adapts to the new climatic conditions. Our agriculture sector is particularly exposed to the risks which climate change poses and adaptation actions on farm can both support the resilience of the farm business and the wider landscape to climate change.</p> <p>Our Vision for Agriculture to become a global leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture includes supporting our farmers to adapt to climate change and the Agricultural Reform Programme (ARP) will transform our support system to deliver high quality food production, climate mitigation and adaptation, and nature restoration. The statutory third Scottish National Adaptation Plan (SNAP3) is due to be finalised this year and sets out Scottish Government's approach to climate adaptation across the economy, including for agriculture. This project will inform the ARP and support the delivery of SNAP3.</p>
Skills required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent literature searching and review skills • Ability to assess and synthesise key evidence • Excellent written and verbal communication skills • Strong time management and prioritisation skills
Timing	No restrictions
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;Part time;
Hashtags	ClimateChange Agriculture Adaptation
Targeting	n/a

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Internship title	R20-24: Technology Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls – Mapping the Data Landscape
Directorate General	Education and Justice
Directorate	Safer Communities
Division/team	Justice Analytical Services
Primary Location	Edinburgh
Is post flexible (hybrid or remote)?	Hybrid
SG analytical sponsor	Tamsyn Wilson tamsyn.wilson@gov.scot
Project details	<p>You will be working in the Justice Analytical Unit and support the work of the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) teams in Justice and Equalities. The project will build on work progressed by the Justice Analytical Services to identify relevant Scottish Government statistics on technology-facilitated (TF) VAWG. It is anticipated that the work will involve a scoping exercise to identify and map the qualitative and quantitative TF-VAWG data held by other partner organisations. This exercise is likely to involve gathering information on a range of data sources including administrative data, published statistics and research/survey data. The work will also consider to what extent the data is being used to develop policy and improve operational performance and service delivery.</p> <p>The work will help Scottish Government and partners to identify key evidence gaps which are needed to inform policy decisions and potential future legislative changes, as well as helping identify priority areas for action and to shape questions for future population surveys.</p> <p>This post offers an excellent opportunity to work in a cross-cutting area of research and policy, and to engage with a wide range of partner organisations and stakeholders in a high-profile area. Successful candidates will have the opportunity to communicate the findings and implications of their work to a range of interested bodies including various internal and multi-agency forums with an interest in VAWG, domestic abuse and commercial sexual exploitation. We understand that the subject matter for this internship is sensitive and can be upsetting. The Scottish Government values the wellbeing of all staff and will support the successful candidate in maintaining their wellbeing during their internship.</p>
Policy Context	<p>Technology is changing the way that Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is perpetrated and enabling new forms of abuse to emerge such as AI-generated intimate images and spyware. There is clear international evidence that technology-facilitated (TF) VAWG is increasingly common and harmful, and this is reflected in the Scottish Government's refreshed Equally Safe Strategy (2023). Emerging international and national research emphasises the need for robust data and evidence in this area to help inform the development of a coordinated, proactive and evidence-based strategic response. More specifically there is a need to better understand what data currently exists and to what extent this information can enable Governments to anticipate and respond to future technology advancements.</p> <p>This internship will support the work of several cross-cutting groups and the delivery of the Equally Safe Strategy. Understanding what data exists on TF-VAWG in Scotland is a crucial step in building a</p>

	shared understanding of TF-VAWG, the scale of the problem and identifying evidence gaps. This work will help inform future research and policy direction in this space.
Skills required	Successful candidates should be comfortable working independently, and able to manage their time and workload effectively. They should be confident communicators and presenters, with strong quantitative research skills (e.g. survey design and data management) and a sound working knowledge of Excel.
Timing	Anticipate an early Nov start date.
Full time, part time or both?	Full time;Part time;
Hashtags	#gender based violence #violence against women and girls #technology #quant
Targeting	No.

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