

ESRC Welsh Graduate School for Social Sciences

Research in Practice Placement Opportunity

The following information has been provided by the Host Organisation and outlines the opportunity available. Any queries about this placement should be addressed to the host organisation in the details provided below.

This placement is aimed at Postgraduate Researchers who have funding through the ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership from October 2024 onwards, who must complete a Research in Practice placement as part of their award.

Name of Host Organisation	Centre for Adult Social Care Research (CARE) and Health Determinants Research Collaboration Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT).
Registered Address	CARE Cardiff University Spark Building Maindy Road, Cardiff CF24 4HQ Health Determinants Research Collaboration Rhondda Cynon Taf Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf RCTCBC Tŷ Elái Trewiliam Williamstown CF40 1NY
Website	https://careresearchwales.org/staff/
Brief description of the Host organisation:	The Centre for Adult Social Care (CARE) is a research centre at Cardiff University and is funded by Health and Social Care Wales. Our goal is to develop cross-cutting research into adult care in Wales, through bringing together multi-disciplinary expertise and fostering collaboration with organisations across the UK. Our research is rooted in the experience of people who receive social care services and those who provide care.

	Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) is a formal collaboration led by RCT County Borough Council with Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board, Interlink (RCT's County Voluntary Council) and Cardiff University. It is one of 30 HDRCs commissioned by the National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR) to improve the evidence culture in Local Authorities.
Company registration Number	RC000089

PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITY	
Placement role title: <i>e.g Policy officer</i>	Research Assistant
Background/expected impact of the project:	Unpaid carers provide care and support to family members or friends with an illness or disability and without their input the health and social care system would struggle to function. Local Authorities in the UK have duties to support the wellbeing of carers through providing a range of services for carers and have a duty to provide carers assessments. In Wales, this occurs through the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. Local authority duties to carers are complicated by the fact that some individuals providing care and support may view themselves as carers whilst others may not or may be reluctant to identify in this way. The student will be based within CARE and will conduct a scoping review of the research literature and grey literature informed by consultations with unpaid carers and working with Interlink in Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT). Interlink, a collaborating partner in RCT HDRC, is a member-led charity dedicated to building connected, resourceful and sustainable communities. It provides a wide range of support to community and voluntary sector (CSV) organisations, including expert advice and guidance, training opportunities, network development, volunteer support, and sector-focused events. The organisation also manages a team of Wellbeing Coordinators (social prescribers) who work

	directly within local communities and small grants for CVS organisations supporting unpaid carers. The scoping review will focus on unpaid adult carers of adults with care and support needs. The scoping review questions will be informed through consultation with carers and with professionals and CVS organisations. However, it is anticipated that the review will focus on: • What are the processes through which individuals come to recognise themselves as carers? • What are the alternative descriptors that individuals may use to identify themselves. • How do factors such as age, gender, sexuality or ethnicity affect the way in which individuals choose to identify as carers or not? • Do the needs of those who receive care (for example, older adults, adults with learning disabilities, adults with mental health problems) affect the way in which those providing care identify?
Outline of duties/description of opportunity	You will: • Conduct a scoping review from publicly available research and documents. • Work closely with your supervisors to gain skills in literature reviewing, analysis, collaborative working with external stakeholders, reporting, and project management. • Lead consultations with stakeholders on research questions and research terms. • Be responsible for conducting searching, screening and shortlisting articles using an agreed inclusion/exclusion criteria. • Make a key contribution to Interlink's efforts to support CVS organisations improve services for unpaid carers.
Expected output(s)/deliverable(s)	The student will provide a report highlighting the findings of the scoping review. This will be provided to

	Health Determinants Research Collaboration Rhondda Cynon Taf and will identify implications for practice.
Skills and experience required for the role	• Reviewing literature - searching using relevant databases online; extracting relevant information from documents. • IT proficiency - using referencing software, for example Endnote; using Microsoft applications including Word, Excel and PowerPoint. • Time management - managing multiple tasks and delivering on agreed outputs. • Collaboratively working - proactively engaging stakeholders; developing and maintaining good relationships; facilitating one-to-one and group meetings. • Written and verbal communication skills – preparing a summary report in accessible formats for wider public dissemination; recording information from meetings; presenting key information concisely and effectively.
Please indicate which of the following skills could be developed or applied during the placement, you may select more than one.	☒ Research skills ☒ Communication skills ☒ Project management ☒ Policy understanding or engagement ☒ Collaboration / teamwork ☒ Data collection ☒ Specific methodologies (please specify): Conducting a scoping review ☐ Software skills (please specify): ☐ Professional and transferable skills ☐ Other (please specify):
What support will be provided for the Postgraduate Researcher <i>e.g necessary resources, training, support and equipment for the student</i>	The successful applicant will have opportunities to meet with individuals across CARE who will provide support with their activities, such as our centre manager and administrative officer. The candidate will be offered supervision on a fortnightly basis by the lead supervisor Dr Jeremy Dixon

<i>to undertake their placement</i>	or Dr Nina Jacob (Research Fellow) who will co-supervise the project. There will be extensive opportunities to network within the School of Social Sciences, as well as with external stakeholders. It is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in working collaboratively with social care leaders. Through this collaboration, the student will develop a good understanding of how to work with different stakeholders (voluntary sector, local government and academic partners) to apply academic learning to policy and practice.
-------------------------------------	--

KEY INFORMATION	
Number of placements available:	1
Location of placement	Spark Building, Maindy Road, Cardiff, CF24 4HQ
Placement duration:	Three months full time
Full time or part-time <i>attend in a single block or spaced out over period of XXX months</i>	We are open to student completing the placement full time (3 months) or part time (6 months).
Working hours or core hours	35 hours per week, Monday-Friday. Core hours are normally 9.00-17.00 but we are open to flexible working arrangements, in agreement with the supervisor.
In-person, online or hybrid:	Hybrid – office 2 days per week
Anticipated start date:	<i>Or choice of months</i>
Security/health and safety restrictions (if relevant)	Candidates must be either UK citizens or have the legal right to study or work in the UK.
Language requirements (if relevant)	Good verbal and written English.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
<i>Equality, diversity and inclusion in the workplace is about valuing all people equally, fairly and with respect, avoiding all forms of unlawful discrimination irrespective of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.</i>

Do you agree to uphold the principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion throughout the placement process and experience.	Yes
Does your organisation have an EDI policy?	CARE follows Cardiff University's Equality and Diversity Framework
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	
<i>WGSSS Postgraduate Researchers receive their studentship stipend whilst attending their Research in Practice placement/opportunity.</i>	
Please confirm if your organisation would be willing to contribute towards additional expenses (e.g. relocation/travel/accommodation costs). If so, please provide details:	CARE is able to provide reasonable reimbursement for travel expenses for work events (consultation events with Interlink). This does not include commuting to/from work.

HOW TO APPLY	
Closing date and time for applications	Applications must be submitted by 17:00 on 11 th September 2026
How to submit an application	Please send your CV and a covering letter explaining how you meet the criteria for this role and why you would like to work for CARE. Your application will not be considered without the covering letter. If your application is successful, you will also be required to provide a reference before starting work. Please email your CV and covering letter to CARE@Cardiff.ac.uk. We welcome applications in Welsh, and applications submitted in Welsh will not be treated less favourably than applications submitted in English.
Contact name and email for any queries related to the placement:	Dr Jeremy Dixon – Dixonj7@cardiff.ac.uk