

General Information

Title: Identifying new ways of bringing together waste tracking data to inform UK policy

Non-Academic partner: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Role/Sector: Waste and Recycling.

Location: Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR (though working from another location on a regular basis is feasible).

Duration: 6 months

Start date: Preferably Autumn 2017 but negotiable

Full or Part time: Preferably full time but with some flexibility

Who are you going to work with

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) is responsible for safeguarding the natural environment, supporting a world-leading food and farming industry, and sustaining a rural economy. It plays a major role in people's day-to-day life, from the food we eat, and the air we breathe, to the water we drink. Its purpose is to unleash the economic potential of food and farming, nature and the countryside, champion the environment and provide security against floods, animal and plant diseases and other hazards. Defra's priorities are:

- a cleaner, healthier environment, benefiting people and the economy
- a world-leading food and farming industry
- a thriving rural economy, contributing to national prosperity and wellbeing
- a nation better-protected against floods, animal and plant diseases and other hazards, with strong response and recovery capabilities
- an organisation continually striving to be the best, focussed on outcomes and constantly challenging itself

How do you expect to spend your day

Defra is responsible for collection of data of waste and material flows from local authorities and businesses as part of their regulatory compliance. This information provides a vital evidence base to policy development. However, the current system is out-dated and no longer fit for purpose. It relies on poorly structured databases, suffers from data gaps and is difficult to compare waste data from the different databases. It also can be time consuming for the end-users (such as local authorities) to report

Defra is looking at ways to modernise its collection of this data for waste and recycling. The post holder will be responsible identifying ways in which better use of technology can generate a cost-effective, integrated and fit-for-purpose system for collecting and reporting data on waste and material flows that can be used for monitoring, enforcement and policy development.

The post holder will be responsible for the following specific work objectives:

- Review how businesses could use waste tracking data beyond being able to demonstrate regulatory compliance
- Helping to scope different technological solutions
- Exploring different models of funding and provision
- Supporting development of a business case for a waste tracking service
- Convening and organising stakeholder meetings and workshops

The ideal intern's personality and qualifications

- Well organised, understanding and application of project management techniques and tools to facilitate project delivery
- Articulate and confident communicator (oral and written)
- Creative/innovative/fresh thinking
- Willing to challenge in a constructive manner.
- Work flexibly and responsive to changing demands
- Ability to multi-task and work to short deadlines
- Accurate and good attention to detail
- User/stakeholder engagement and understanding user needs
- IT/data literate

Relevant subjects/ topics: Social science, research, numerical/analytical skills, business analysis or other similar subjects.

Essential skills:

Collaborating and partnering – strong team player who works collaboratively, sharing information appropriately and building effective professional relationships with colleagues and an external stakeholders, whilst having the confidence to challenge assumptions constructively.

Managing a quality service - plan, organise and manage their time and activities to deliver a high quality and efficient service, applying project and risk management approaches as appropriate.

Delivering at pace – works with energy, focus on priorities, takes responsibility to deliver goals in a timely manner; deals with challenges in a responsive and constructive way.

Communication – clear and confident oral and written communication skills and comfortable working with a range of people with different backgrounds/knowledge and external stakeholders e.g. local authorities and waste management businesses. Communication may be face to face, e-mail or telephone with regular remote/virtual team-working.

Technical and specialist skills – data collection and dissemination, IT/databases, digital services and delivery, agile project management.

Desirable skills:

Knowledge of the waste management sector or waste regulation

Agile ways of project management.

What are the benefits of Interning at this project

It is a particularly exciting time to be working for Defra. The department is heavily affected by EU Exit which presents exciting challenges both to new priorities as well as business as usual work. Working at Defra will give the Cambridge intern the opportunity to shape and deliver more efficient regulatory powers in the future by enhancing the use of data and technology. Their input will help Defra to improve its evidence capability to improve future policy decisions, working in an agile project management framework.

Beyond the immediate work, the intern will benefit from standard terms for working at Defra, such as the annual leave and working hours commensurate with a new starter.

Apply for this role

If you are interested in applying for this opportunity, please email the completed [application form](#) and a CV to esrcdtc@admin.cam.ac.uk.

Please note that all applications must be approved by the applicant's PhD supervisor. The application deadline is **September 20 2017**. Results will be announced early October 2017.