

## General Information

**Title:** Understanding and influencing behaviour that results in marine plastic pollution

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

**Role/Sector:** Social science role in Defra's 'Marine' Directorate.

**Location:** Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR (potential move to Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR from 2018). Working from another location on a regular basis is feasible.

**Duration:** 6 months

**Start date:** As soon as possible – preferably Autumn 2017

**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

This project plays an essential role in reducing marine plastic pollution by seeking to understand the behaviours that lead to that pollution and devising behavioural approaches to effect a positive change. Project objectives include:

- Identifying organisational and individual behaviours that result in marine plastic pollution.
- Carrying out a rapid evidence assessment of what works for whom and why, to influence behaviours that result in marine plastic pollution etc.
- Developing a behaviour change toolkit for organisations, communities and individuals to tackle marine plastic pollution.
- Designing an experimental trial to test interventions designed to influence behaviours that result in marine plastic pollution.
- Recommendations about the optimal, cost-effective, package of interventions required to change behaviour and minimize marine plastic pollution.

## The ideal intern's personality and qualifications

We are looking for an individual with first-hand experience of secondary research methods who is able to work independently to deliver this piece of work. Some knowledge of primary research and developing trials is also important. He/she will need to work with little supervision and at pace. They will need to feel comfortable engaging with a wide variety of stakeholders and engender trust and collaboration. They will also need to work collaboratively with colleagues in Marine and the Strategic Behavioural Insights Team within Defra to ensure that the behaviour change toolkit and interventions to trial are appropriate. They should be able to communicate confidently with colleagues and stakeholders at all levels. Defra is committed to having a diverse workforce that brings in the widest range of talent, ideas and approaches (Defra group equality, diversity and inclusion strategy 2017 to 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defra-group-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-strategy-2017-to-2020>).

### Essential skills:

- A strong grasp of social science methods and some understanding of behavioural science
- Experience of having undertaken evidence reviews and primary qualitative research
- The ability to work independently
- The ability to deliver under time pressure.
- Strong communication skills

### Desirable skills:

- Project management skills
- An interest in improving marine environmental outcomes

## What are the benefits of Interning at this project

Government is taking a leading role in enabling citizens to make the right choices. This includes avoiding unnecessary plastics, participating in beach cleans and recycling. Environment Secretary Michael Gove pledged action to reduce plastic waste choking our oceans:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/environment-secretary-pledges-action-on-ocean-plastics>

A considerable amount of work is already underway domestically and internationally. You would be in a unique position to positively contribute to action that needs to be taken at a local, regional and international level.

You will be working in a cross-disciplinary team with policy makers, natural scientists, economists, statisticians and others from a range of backgrounds. You will have the opportunity to make a strong personal impact, working alongside experts in Marine.

It is a unique opportunity to network and gain a better understanding of the Civil Service, gaining relevant professional experience to enhance your skills and future employability.

## Apply for this role

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