General Information

Title: Informing the development of Defra's Clean Air Strategy

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

Role/Sector: Economist role in Defra's 'Air Quality and Industrial Emissions' team.

Location: Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR.

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

The 2018 Clean Air Strategy will map out the UK's future direction for air quality and how we will meet our challenging international commitments to reduce emissions of five major air pollutants by 2020 and 2030. It will be a major programme of Government policy making and a high priority for Defra, bringing evidence from the natural, economic and social sciences into policy making and drawing in a large number of external stakeholders to support decisions on the future of air quality policy. Your role will be to help develop the economic evidence base which will underpin the new strategy. You will undertake assessments of specific policy interventions; build understanding of costs and benefits, contributing towards the impact assessment(s) for the new strategy and influence Treasury bids. You will be at the heart of decision-making, working in a multi-disciplinary team of evidence and policy professionals to shape national policy on air quality.

Specific objectives include:
- Working independently to deliver econometric analysis.
- Building an understanding of how the costs and benefits for air quality interventions are calculated.
- Building understanding of the impact of measures being proposed as part of the new Clean Air Strategy.
- Working closely with policy colleagues to understand the evidence that they need to develop the strategy.

- Identifying options to reduce emissions in an efficacious and economic manner. This includes working with contractors to investigate abatement technologies and collaborating with stakeholders to draw a short list of measures to implement.
- Developing business cases for investment and impact assessments for regulation, to bring about the identified technologies
- Contributing to Defra's air quality research programmes.
- Working with evidence specialists across the team to refine the assumptions made in your work.
- Feeding your findings into policy making at opportune moments.

The ideal intern's personality and qualifications

We are looking for a capable economist looking to apply their skills and expertise in a real-world context. The breadth of the policy requires strong collaboration and communication skills to translate evidence into succinct insights for decision makers and stakeholders, cross-Whitehall working, and direct advice on key policy questions.

You will need to work with little supervision and at pace. You will need to feel comfortable engaging with a variety of stakeholders and work collaboratively with colleagues across a range of specialisms in AQIE to ensure your work meets their needs.

Microeconomic theory will be your main focus, particularly environmental and public economics. Spreadsheet modelling will also be used, including running and refining existing models.

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: www.gov.uk/government/publications/defra-group-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-strategy-2017-to-2020.)

Essential skills:
- A strong grasp of economic methods
- Strong communication skills
- The ability to work independently
- The ability to deliver under time pressure

Desirable skills:
o Interest in/ experience of environmental economics
o An interest in working in Government
o Good project management skills

What are the benefits of Interning at this project

Air quality has barely been out of the news in recent months. To date, public attention has focussed on pollution from transport. However, in 2018 Defra is due to produce its wider Clean Air Strategy, covering emissions of pollutants such as particulate matter and ammonia and activities as diverse as domestic combustion (burning wood and coal at home), industry and agriculture. This internship provides a unique opportunity to apply your skills as an academic economist in a real-world context.

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 be able to make a strong personal impact, applying your academic knowledge to resolve real issues whilst working alongside subject-matter experts.

It is a great opportunity to gain insight into public policy and the Civil Service, gaining relevant professional experience to enhance your skills and future employability.

CAMBRIDGE SOCIAL SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP – INTERNSHIP PROJECT

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.