

General Information

Title: Delivery of evidence based review to inform and drive resource efficiency strategy

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

Role/Sector: Resource Efficiency, 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 delivering a resource efficiency strategy. This strategy will be influential in improving the efficient use of resources by businesses and local authorities ultimately delivering productivity and environmental benefits.

The Cambridge intern will be responsible for influencing development of the strategy by ensuring it is based on a strong evidence base. It will identify opportunities for businesses and local authorities to take action privately and where government intervention is necessary to benefit society. This will require completion of an evidence report to be published alongside the strategy. The intern will work closely with Defra policy and evidence colleagues, also contributing to delivery of an externally commissioned project which will also contribute to the evidence strategy's evidence base.

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

- Deliver a comprehensive evidence document to underpin the resource strategy based on existing and specifically commissioned research.
- Contribute to delivery of high quality commissioned work to ensure its effective contribution to the resource efficiency strategy.
- Be an actively engaged member of Defra's resource efficiency strategy policy team and the wider evidence team.

The ideal intern's personality and qualifications

The intern will be an effective communicator, with the ability to explain economic principles on the importance of resource efficiency to the UK economy to non-economist policy colleagues. They

will have a strong understanding of productivity, understanding that it is driven not just through labour and capital investment but through a broad set of factor inputs including materials. In addition, the intern must be capable of working in a self-disciplined manner to meet agreed deadlines to meet policy needs, but also willing to part of a vibrant multi-disciplinary team of economists, statisticians, modellers and scientists.

The intern will be proficient in economics, with at least an economics degree of 2:1 or higher (or equivalent), ideally studying for a doctorate in economics or similar subject with a focus on productivity.

There may be opportunities for the intern to gain wider experience of working in government, depending on their interests and skills.

Essential skills:

The intern will need to demonstrate the following competencies based on the civil service competency framework

1. **Making effective decisions:** The intern will demonstrate capability to use sound judgement, evidence and knowledge to provide accurate, expert and professional advice. They will set priorities, analyse and use evidence to evaluation options before arriving at well-reasoned justifiable decisions.
2. **Leading and communicating:** The intern will lead from the front and communicate with clarity, conviction and enthusiasm.
3. **Collaborating and partnering:** The intern will create and maintain positive relationships within and potentially outside the Civil Service to get their business done. They will actively seek input from a wide range of people.
4. **Delivering at pace:** The intern will deliver timely performance with energy and take responsibility and accountability for quality outcomes, dealing with challenges in a responsive and constructive.
5. **Application of economic knowledge:** Apply economic tools and techniques, and synthesise evidence from a range of sources, as appropriate

Desirable skills:

Seeing the big picture: the intern will need to show ability to develop an understanding of the strategy and how it contributes to departmental and wider government priorities

What are the benefits of Interning at this project

It is a particularly exciting time to be working for Defra. The department is heavily involved in EU Exit which presents exciting challenges both to new priorities as well as business as usual work. The intern will benefit from being part of a high calibre, interdisciplinary evidence team consisting of economists, statisticians, modellers, social researchers and scientists. They will also work in close partnership with policy officials responsible for delivering the waste and resource efficiency strategy. Working at Defra will give the Cambridge intern the opportunity to influence and deliver evidence based policy development as well as experience life in the civil service.

Beyond the immediate work, the intern will benefit from standard terms and conditions from 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 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.