

## SAGES Innovation Programme

**Job Title:** SAGES Policy Internship

**Organisation:** Scottish Government

**Duration:** 3-6 months, part-time (flexible to fit around academic commitments)

**Start date:** September 2019

**Remuneration:** £ 4,000-8,000 (dependent on duration)

**Travel costs:** supported by RESAS (receipted travel and necessary overnight stays)

### Summary

SAGES are offering a unique opportunity for a short-term Internship with the Scottish Government's Rural Environment Science and Analytical Services (RESAS) department for three to six months, part-time. The position of Policy Fellowship open to all SAGES Early Career Researchers (late PhD and early postdoctoral) members including the Graduate School and will be awarded on a competitive basis. The Intern will provide policy knowledge and insight working closely with the Scottish Government and SAGES to develop meaningful and high-impact research outputs that will be disseminated widely within both SAGES and the wider Scottish academic network.

### Job Description

The Policy Internship role builds on the current Research Excellence Framework (REF), which is currently utilised by British universities as the principal metric of assessing academic performance. The REF assesses both/ the quality of research and impact evaluation in UK Higher Education Institutions.

The Policy Intern will be required to evaluate the present REF system assessment tools, and with this in mind, develop a preliminary scoping investigation into how a similar system may be established that could specifically assess an academic's engagement within policy and regulatory development. The Policy Fellow would be responsible for identifying other impact evaluation systems currently in use and how a new system would fit into the current landscape as well as provide widely acceptable recognition of academics efforts within the policy sector (e.g., inputting into public consultations, researching for decision makers, collaborating with the Government on key issues).

The Internship should provide a high-level synthesized report and may consider/include: current impact evaluation criteria utilised by academics; examples of types of policy and regulatory engagement; thematic assessment criteria to assess policy engagement (e.g., high-level indicators); units of assessment (e.g., how academics will be able to rate their engagement, please see '[impact factor scoring](#)' as an example); case study examples of groups of academics that had a tangible impact on policy or regulation and; accreditation for the impact evaluation system.

The post holder will be required to work closely with: Scottish Government, SAGES, ECCI, ClimateXChange and other government funded research pools. There is scope to be based at the Scottish Government as well as ECCI and work with the Chief Scientific Advisor for Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture at the Scottish Government.

### Aims and Outputs

One high-level academic report (approximately 15 pages) which should include:

- Current impact evaluation criteria utilised by academics
- Examples of different types of policy and regulatory engagement
- Thematic assessment criteria to assess policy engagement (e.g., high-level indicators)

One page executive summary of the report findings for a policy audience

Optional to include:

- Units of assessment (e.g., how academics can rate their policy engagement)
- Case study examples of groups of academics that had a tangible impact on policy or regulation accreditation for the impact evaluation system.

## **Person specifications**

We are looking for an Early Career Researcher or SAGES Graduate student:

- Either working towards, or has recently completed a PhD
- Knowledge and/or experience of working in a policy environment
- Knowledge of academic REF and importance of impact evaluation in higher education is desirable.
- Strong research data collection and synthesis skills.
- Strong communications skills (written and verbal) as post holder will be working with various organisations.
- Independent worker who can plan their own workload and is confident in their ability to deliver a well written report.

## **How to apply**

To apply, please provide a one page cover letter detailing why you are the right person for this Policy Internship as well as a CV (2 pages maximum) to Katherine Maxwell, Innovation Manager, SAGES. Please include one reference that you are happy for us to contact, should you be successful.

Deadline for applications is Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, 17.00.

By applying you are confirming that you are available for an interview on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019.