National Assembly for Wales Academic Fellowship scheme
2020 Directed Call: Project outline

The Welsh Research and Innovation Landscape

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1 Description of the Project

We are looking for an academic to produce a study evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the science, research and innovation landscape in Wales, as well as the threats and opportunities. This would include background on the relevant debates and perspectives in science, R&I policy and spending including those related to ‘place’; the UK and global context; people and skills pipelines; and university, private enterprise and other public and private R&I investment / activity and how they interact and impact one another. The study should result in hard policy recommendations for the future direction of R&I policy in Wales.

2 Skills/expertise required

- Research background in science / research / innovation policy, or suitably related discipline or area (this can be discussed with interested persons).
- Ability and willingness to draft papers that are suitable for, and can engage lay audiences.
- Willingness to present papers and findings to lay audiences such as Assembly Committees.
- Knowledge of Welsh Government, its aims and objectives in relation to R&D and economic development, and its policy-making machinery.

3 Expected Outputs

- A substantial paper of several thousand words.
- An executive summary of the paper.
- A blog post addressing the paper.
- A slide-deck for presenting the paper.
- Possibly a short video presentation, or to assist with the script of a video presentation of the paper intended for social media lay audiences.
4  Expected timescale

This is not a time-sensitive piece of work but I do not anticipate it going beyond December 2020. A period of 6-8 months is a realistic timeframe for a final draft of the paper.

5  Working arrangements

Meetings (in person or via Skype / video-conferencing) at least once a week at key points in the work (start-up, final drafting / editing etc) but otherwise very flexible.

Attend the Assembly to present the paper / findings / recommendations and discuss with Members.