LSSI Post Graduate Research Student Placement Opportunity

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a PGR student to undertake a period of paid work with the Department of Transport through a structured placement.

The Department for Transport (DfT) works with agencies and partners to support the transport network that helps UK’s businesses, and gets people and goods travelling around the country. This involves planning and investing in transport infrastructure to keep the UK on the move. Our activities touch on a wide range of public policy issues including the environment, our economic growth, our Exit from the European Union and anticipating future technological changes.

The applicant would be based in the Aviation and Maritime Analysis (AMA) directorate, which leads on a range of analytical projects and develops evidence to shape policy on the environmental impacts of the aviation and maritime sectors, the Government’s delivery of new airport capacity and the skills base of the aviation industry.

The placement activities will include:

The PhD student will be supporting the wider social research plans in AMA and will principally involve working with Government Social Researchers. Projects that they may be involved in include a qualitative research project to encourage environmentally friendly ways to get to the airport and/or another qualitative project focused on entry routes and skills in the Aviation and/or Maritime sectors.

It would be expected that the PhD student will undertake qualitative research (the specific methods to be determined in conjunction with the PhD student nearer the time) with some travel required.

It is also expected that the successful candidate will manage all aspects of the proposed research, from designing the research materials and consulting policy colleagues to carrying out the research, thematically analysing the findings and writing up a final report as well as presenting the findings to relevant stakeholders and policy colleagues. Support and guidance will be provided by Government Social researchers working in AMA.

Skills required:

- The ideal candidate is someone that is highly skilled in being able to carry out different qualitative research methods (for e.g. semi/unstructured interviews, focus groups etc) and being able to thematically analyse the findings.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills to disseminate the research findings.
- It would also suit someone who wants to get an insight into how to deliver research for policy ‘customers’, not just academics, and gain some practical experience of qualitative research methods and analysis, in particular, interviews, focus groups and literature reviews.

Benefits and skills developed for the student
The student will gain valuable experience of being able to apply social research to public policy and will gain exposure to working with policy colleagues. They will also be able to expand their knowledge of how the Government works in practice and working in a Civil Service department which may inform their future career choices and provide competency examples for future job applications.
It will also be possible to work with professional social researchers and other analytical professions such as economists, statisticians, transport modellers and operational researchers. In turn, there will be many networking opportunities to meet new analytical and policy contacts, for e.g. fast streamers, those that have made the transition from academia to DfT & senior staff.

**Timetable:**
130 hours in total spaced over 3 – 6 months beginning as soon as possible (please note security checks may take up to 6 weeks)
Weekly hours flexible and to be agreed
Student will receive a bursary of £1950 to cover their time and expenses on the placement
Travel to London may be required and a DfT laptop will be provided for remote working.

**Nationality requirements**
Open to UK, Commonwealth and European Economic Area (EEA) and certain non EEA nationals. Further information on whether you are able to apply is available [here](#).

Please include in your Cover Letter confirmation that you have the right to work in the UK.

The Department of Transport carry out name-blind recruitment so please do not include any personal identifiers that would enable them to identify you such as your name, age, ethnicity etc. within your CV and Cover Letter.

If you are interested in applying for this placement position please send:
- CV (with personal identifiers removed)
- Cover Letter (with personal identifiers removed)
- Email or signature from your Supervisor that they are happy for you to undertake the placement

To LSSI Coordinator Hannah Crow [H.E.Crow@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:H.E.Crow@leeds.ac.uk) by Thursday 16\(^{th}\) January 2020.