**N8 AgriFood Policy Internship – Parliamentary Office of Science andTechnology (POST)**

POST currently runs a Policy Internship Scheme which is a competitive process available to doctoral students to apply for a 3-month placement at POST to gain valuable policy experience.  N8 AgriFood will be funding an internship in collaboration with POST to begin in January 2020.

The successful candidate will work at POST (Houses of Parliament, Westminster) for 3 months to produce a POSTnote or POSTbrief, from start to finish. This includes scoping the topic, conducting interviews with senior stakeholders from across academia, government, industry and the not-for-profit sector, then drafting, editing and finalising the document.

By the end of your time at POST, you will have learnt how to write for policy makers with balance, impartiality and succinctness. You will also have developed a unique understanding of Westminster, forged important relationships with key stakeholders, and delved into a novel and exciting topic of research.

For further information on N8 AgriFood and POST see below.

**Internship topic - Promoting Resilient Supply Chains in our Food System**

Awareness among the general public of the impact of their own food choices on the environment is growing. But even the most environmentally conscious consumers find it hard to make the ‘right’ choices, given the complexity of the food system and the wide array of competing ‘sustainability’ claims and certification labels. The lack of clear information is especially true for so-called ‘embedded’ commodities, like palm oil and soy, which are typically consumed indirectly (e.g. cakes, spreads, and confectionary in the case of palm oil and animal feed in the case of soy).

Researching this subject will involve the successful applicant interacting with stakeholders from a wide range of academic disciplines, business, NGOs and the environment and food policy sector. The aim of the briefing will be to:

* Better inform parliamentarians, consumers, businesses and policy-makers about the environmental impacts of food supply chains.
* Provide more accurate information on the global impacts of our food choices on people and planet.
* Influence the design and delivery of more robust certification schemes that promote a sustainable food system.

**Eligibility**

We are seeking applications from current doctoral students registered at one of the N8 Universities (Durham, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield and York) working in an area of agri-food research. Please note, applications will also be accepted from post-doctoral researchers but the funding available is a typical doctoral student stipend.

Due to the 3-month timing limit of this internship we are unable to accept part-time applications.

The internship will begin in January 2020.

**Application and interview process**

Applicants should complete the attached application form and provide two additional documents:

Signed letter from your doctoral supervisor confirming their support for the applicant undertaking the POST internship and clarifying whether the applicant would continue to receive their doctoral stipend during the internship.

Document outlining your understanding of the policy topic (Promoting Resilient Supply Chains in our Food System) and demonstrating your ability to write in a style suitable for a POSTnote/brief. This should be a maximum of one-page A4, font Arial 11 or similar.

Candidates will be assessed on the basis of their application and shortlisted candidates invited to interview.

The deadline for applications will be 16th October 2019.

**Interviews will take place at the University of York on 7th November 2019**. The panel will be comprised of N8 AgriFood researchers and a representative from POST. Reasonable travel costs will be reimbursed.

**Funding**

If a stipend will not be provided to the successful applicant via their current studentship, then a stipend will be provided at the UKRI rate (£15,009 per annum) for the 3-month internship period. Additional funds (up to £3k maximum) will be made available for the costs of travel and accommodation during the internship.

**N8 AgriFood**

N8 AgriFood is a unique programme working across the entire food system by combining multidisciplinary expertise from the eight most research-intensive universities in the North of England: Durham, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield and York. We work together to tackle key challenges in food production, supply chains, nutrition and consumer behaviour to drive the development of a sustainable global food system. You can find out more about our work and achievements on our website <https://www.n8agrifood.ac.uk/>

**POST**

The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST, <https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/offices/bicameral/post/>) is Parliament's in-house source of independent, balanced and accessible analysis of public-policy issues related to science and technology.