



Policy Internship Opportunities with the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia

A number of exciting opportunities for current PhD / Masters students or recent graduates to gain valuable experience applying research skills to real-world policy development.

The opportunity

The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (the Academy) is pleased to offer up to four policy internship opportunities to social science HDR students or recent graduates affiliated with our partner organisations and looking to gain an insight into the world of policy.

The opportunity will allow motivated interns to work together as a team under the direct guidance and supervision of highly experienced policy professionals contributing to the development of the *Decadal Plan for Social Science Research Infrastructure*.

The successful interns will receive a stipend (at the rate of an APA scholarship) and opportunities to travel to or – if preferred – be based at the Academy's national office in Canberra. They will engage in high-level stakeholder meetings and policy briefings and work closely with policy and subject matter experts from a range of disciplines and backgrounds.

The internships will run for 3-6 months and can be undertaken on a full- or part-time basis.

To be eligible to undertake the internship, successful applicants will need to receive approval from their supervisor and/or institution to defer their studies or change their employment arrangements in full or part for the duration of the internship.

At the conclusion of the internship, the successful applicants will come away with a much greater understanding of policy development processes, with new networks and contacts and with valuable experience contributing to an impactful policy initiative that will make them stand out in any graduate job field.

The project

These internships will support a policy project to develop a Decadal Plan for Social Science Research Infrastructure being led by the Academy in partnership with the ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course, the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, the UQ Institute for Social Science Research, the ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research (CEPAR) and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society.

This is a major project involving experts and key stakeholders in academia, government, and research support organisations, among others.

The Decadal Plan will define short-, medium-, and long-term goals and actions for the strategic, coordinated, transformation of national research infrastructure in the social sciences. The internships will focus on assisting with the development and delivery of several components of this project, with consideration to the candidate's career aspirations and skills.

About you

You are a PhD candidate or early-career researcher in one of the following partner institutions:

- ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course.
- UQ Institute for Social Science Research
- ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods
- ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research (CEPAR)

You are interested in learning more about social policy development and implementation and about the interface between research and policy.

You may have decided already that you wish to pursue a career in policy (whether in government or in the business or community sector) at the research-policy interface (in knowledge translation or knowledge brokering for example) or as an informed and influential academic who has the skills and knowledge to inform and shape real world policy decisions. Or you might not be sure what you want to do as a career and just be interested in learning more.

What you will need are good research and writing skills (what we'd consider a given as a social science HDR student) as well as the ability to think outside the box, work well with others (a fellow intern as well as a team) and to learn and be open to feedback and new ways of doing things. You'll be the kind of person who others describe as self-motivated or a self-starter and you'll pride yourself on being able to take initiative and deliver to a high standard in everything you do.

How to apply

1. If you are a current student, seek permission and a 1-page letter of recommendation from your supervisor confirming their support for your application (you may also need to seek permission from your school/department).
2. Write a 500-word article (in the style of a contribution to [The Conversation](#) or similar) about long-term planning and investment in social science research infrastructure.
3. Write a one-page cover letter outlining your interest in the opportunity and your preferences re timing (start and end dates, full- or part-time, any known leave periods) and location (remote or Canberra-based).
4. Compile a short CV (3-pages max) outlining your educational and employment background, skills and achievements.
5. Send all of the above to isabel.ceron@socialsciences.org.au **no later than 1st December 2022** (for January/Feb 2023 start).

Process

Applications will be assessed as they are received (so do submit your application as soon as you're ready) and shortlisted applicants will be invited for a brief online interview.

Stipend, project, 'onboarding' and any necessary travel arrangements will then be made with successful applicants for earliest commencement possible.

Note that the Academy will be able to cover two return flights and four night's accommodation in Canberra for interns based remotely, but will not be able to cover longer-term accommodation should people choose to undertake all or part of the internship in Canberra.