PhD placements in the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has set up the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation (CDEI) to advise Government on how best to take advantage of data-enabled technologies. The Centre aims to tackle both technical questions arising from the advent of big data and AI, along with more philosophical questions such as the ethics behind digital targeting, and problems of algorithmic bias.

The Centre is being assisted in this work by the Open Innovation Team (OIT) in the Cabinet Office. The OIT has successfully run a PhD placement programme for the past two years, and CDEI would like to use this model to invite PhD students to join their team on placement for a minimum of 3 months.

Applications should come in the form of a CV and a short statement of no more than 300 words.

Responsibilities
PhD students working with us on placement will be expected to carry out a range of tasks, including:

- Reviewing evidence to inform policy discussions and help scope out projects
- Generating analysis and policy ideas working alongside officials and outside experts
- Developing project plans to ensure projects remain on track
- Pitching new projects to Whitehall departments and non-government partners
- Managing stakeholders inside and outside Whitehall
- Organising engagement activity, including arranging meetings, university visits and Whitehall policy seminars

Required skills/experience
We are looking for PhD students who can:

- Communicate well, including translating complex ideas to non-expert audiences
- Manage their time effectively, juggling a variety of tasks with minimal supervision
- Collaborate with a variety of team members, government officials and academics
- Adapt as projects and partners evolve
- Demonstrate an interest in policy and a willingness to learn about new issues

Training and experience expected to be gained on the placement
The placement will provide an excellent opportunity to:

- Understand more about how Whitehall works and how policy is developed
- Hone writing and communication skills for non-expert audiences
- Develop networks in government, including Cabinet Office and other departments
- Build knowledge of new policy areas
- Apply research skills in a different way, producing outputs that could impact government policy