

## **MSA PLUS: PSA - Professional Studies Advisor Service**

**Our PSA Service guides architecture students and recent graduates through the process of recording and reflecting on their practical experience and provides additional support through professional events at the Manchester School of Architecture.**

In the UK, students must complete a minimum of 24 months of work experience before they take their final ARB/RIBA Part 3 Examination to register as an Architect. This experience is generally recorded through the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) using their Professional Experience and Development Record (PEDR). There is a requirement for this to be reviewed and signed by a Construction Professional mentor or supervisor and then by a Professional Studies Advisor (PSA).

Our Professional Studies Advisor Service uses registered architects to monitor the quarterly PEDRs, giving each candidate guidance and feedback every few months. This not only underlines the expertise we feel is required for and relevant to this service but, reassures candidates that advice and guidance is from individuals who maintain currency in the profession and have successfully completed the Registration process themselves, including recording and presentation of their Professional Experience.

What is a PSA?

A Professional Studies Advisor (PSA) is a member of staff at a school of architecture/provider offering RIBA validated qualifications, who has responsibility for teaching professional studies and/or for monitoring students during their professional experience. (Generally recorded through PEDR). A PSA can work with employers and students in a joint effort to ensure the best possible professional development and experience for students. PSAs can also advise employers and students on all aspects of professional experience, including matters such as salary levels and student capabilities.

Who it is for?

- Students undertaking their year out between Part 1 and Part 2
- Part 2 graduates who have not yet started a Part 3 programme
- Apprentices who wish to record and reflect on their practice
- We will eventually welcome applications from everyone but for now this is exclusive to MSA students and graduates

What is Included?

- Introductory lecture to the process
- Semi-annual gathering/events in June & December where all PSA candidates and staff have an opportunity to meet at the Manchester School of Architecture (MSA), share experiences, pick-up tips and hear about develop their knowledge of architectural practice.
- MSA PSAs will try to arrange Practice Visits if possible
- Availability to purchase PSA service via MMU Online e-store
- Fee per quarterly PEDR record: £40
- Access to the RIBA's digital PEDR platform UK is NOT included – you can register for this separately here (insert link to this location <https://register.architecture.com/pedr> )

Further information

If you have any queries about this please contact Stephen McCusker, our Professional Studies Lead [s.mccusker@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:s.mccusker@mmu.ac.uk)

**Registering for the PSA service:**

The e-store link for the service and payment can be found [HERE](#)

The registration process will collect general details and you will also be required to complete the form with questions that help us allocate a personal PSA for you. Examples of how to fill out these questions are set out below:

QUESTION	ANSWER
Level of Study:	<i>(e.g. Part 1 Part 2 or Part 3)</i>
Relevant Period of Placement:	<i>(Enter up to 12 weeks or 3 months e.g. 01.07.21-30.09.21)</i>
Name of enterprise/practice for relevant placement:	<i>(e.g. MMU estates, BDP)</i>
Location of enterprise/practice for relevant placement:	<i>(e.g. London, Manchester)</i>
Primary place of Study:	<i>(e.g. Part 1 at MSA, BSc at Hong Kong)</i>
Secondary place of Study:	<i>(e.g. Part 2 at MSA, MArch at Hong Kong or 'None')</i>