

2018 RSAW Practice Experience Programme



RSAW and WSA are pleased to announce 2018's Practice Experience programme, enabling students to connect with a local practice during the second semester, January to April 2018.

The scheme will be offered to second year undergraduates with the aim of providing a brief 'taster' of the work of an architect in practice through a small number of contact sessions, to be conducted between 1st January to 1st May. The exact format of these sessions can vary, but we ask that practices meet with students for at least half a day. There will be an opportunity for students and practices to continue this mentoring relationship informally beyond the end of the programme if they so wish.

What are the aims of the scheme?

Through personal contact and regular involvement, the Practice Experience programme is intended to create an opportunity for students to develop a basic understanding of professional practice in the context of the rapidly changing role of architects. In particular, we hope the exposure to practice during the second year of study will be an excellent preparation for the year-out experience.

Who can become a Practice Experience host?

RIBA Chartered Practices, or practices with at least one RIBA Chartered Member, who accept the objectives and can meet the requirements of the scheme are welcome to become host practices. If new to the scheme, we ask practices to complete a brief profile on the application form overleaf. Students will be placed in small groups (min 2, max 6) for the purpose of the practice visits, with one student as the key point of contact. Because there is a large second year cohort, we encourage practices to offer shorter sessions to more groups, so we can spread the value of the scheme to as many individuals as possible. The aim is to give every student a flavour – however brief – of life in practice.

As with previous years, we require practices to identify a key member of staff to be the main contact point for each student group. The key member of staff will usually be a RIBA chartered member with experience of practice in the UK or abroad. They should be architects committed to the future of the profession, prepared to offer advice and help. A successful Host Practice will have a relaxed, open, friendly office culture, where staff are able to listen and communicate effectively.

Role and responsibilities of a Host Practice

- Enhance the students' academic education by demonstrating design in practice.
- Offer an insight into the business of architecture and experience of practice (this might take the form of a site visit, client meeting, local authority negotiations, design review presentation etc).
- Provide support on professionally related or business matters (for example, this might include an insight into developing client relationships or a workload/cash flow discussion).
- Introduce the concept of professionalism and the value of a professional institute.

Next steps

If your practice would like to take part in the 2018 Practice Experience Programme please complete the Register of Interest attached. We will let you know in early December if you have been selected as a Host Practice and details of your student group will be sent to you shortly afterwards.

Further guidance

If your practice is selected to take part in the 2018 scheme, further guidance will be provided by RSAW and WSA.

The WSA contact is **Ed Green**, 2nd Year Chair - GreenE11@cardiff.ac.uk

The RSAW contact is **David Rossington** - David.Rossington@riba.org

For any inquiries please telephone the RSAW on 02920 228987.

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Register of Interest Form

Practice Name

Address

Main Contact Email

Telephone

Have you taken part in this programme before? Yes No

If you are a new host practice: please attach a brief practice profile (approx. 250 words) stating the qualities that would make you a suitable 'Host Practice'. You may wish to mention other mentoring schemes you have been involved in; awards you've won; your commitment to sustainability; specialist areas of knowledge of yourself or team members etc.

Are the following individuals Chartered RIBA members tick as appropriate:
Yes No

Main Contact Name

Name(s) of staff who may assist in hosting

How many students could you host? 2 3-4 5-6 6+

How many 1/2 day contact sessions could you offer?

Checklist:

- The practice will be able to offer at least 1/2 day of contact time in the period between 1 January and 1 May
- A representative of the practice will be able to attend the briefing day on 14 December at the WSA, Cardiff
- We have appropriate insurance to cover visitors to the office and on normal practice business
- We can provide appropriate site gear if required during the student's visit
- We can provide appropriate H+S briefings for all situations during the student's visit

Signed

Date

Closing date for receipt of forms: **Thursday 7 December 2017.**

Please send completed form to rsaw@riba.org or by post to:
RSAW Studio 111 The Creative Quarter, Morgan Arcade, Cardiff CF10 1AF

RSAW 
Architecture.com/wales