

## **Actuarial secondee**

I thoroughly enjoyed my time here and was instantly made to feel part of a dynamic actuarial team with clear goals to focus on. I found the working environment at the PPF very enjoyable and relaxed, and it allowed me the responsibility and freedom to manage my own tasks and projects and to drive these forward.

I worked on a wide range of projects during my time here, including assessing schemes that were looking to enter the PPF from an actuarial perspective, providing actuarial advice to members who submitted queries and being part of discussions on cutting-edge complex issues.

The majority of my time was spent working in an area that I have a particular interest in, ie the development and update of a number of actuarial tools. As part of this, I worked extensively with many areas of the PPF, such as IT specialists, programmers, project management and process experts. It was particularly rewarding discussing complex actuarial modelling issues with non-actuarial colleagues and working together to see the final product come to life.

I also found it interesting being part of team discussions on hot topics that the PPF needed to address, such as proposed update to valuation assumptions. I found I was able to bring an additional viewpoint to these discussions, including how I would expect my firm and clients to react to certain changes being proposed.

I feel I have personally gained useful experience in a number of areas. Firstly, being part of a central team in the pensions industry I found that I was frequently dealing with a range of external people and firms. It was interesting to see how these firms tackle issues, organise their businesses and to see the format and standard of the work they produce, which is not something you would ordinarily come across in a typical consultancy firm. I also feel that my knowledge on issues relating to the PPF and the Pensions Regulator has increased rapidly, which will prove valuable on my return to consultancy work.

My employer has also significantly benefited from my time here as I have quickly become a central point of technical knowledge on PPF matters, able to efficiently assist my colleagues in these areas. The experience and skills I have developed here will help us as a firm to better serve our clients and bring this increased experience to the table.

Overall, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and have benefited from an increase in knowledge in the PPF issues and wider experience of working in a different office, with different teams in a different environment. I have already recommended a PPF secondment to a number of my colleagues, many of whom are eager to discuss the possibilities of a placement here, and I would have no hesitation recommending a similar secondment to others.