



ASM are delighted to be partnering with Publicis Groupe once again to offer paid, real-world internship opportunities for autistic and neurodivergent people across a wide range of roles in media, advertising and PR in Summer 2026!

**Applications are now open until 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2026!!!**

Internships provide successful participants with the opportunity to work across a variety of areas within one of the world's largest advertising, communications, and digital transformation companies.

Please follow the links below to take you to each role -



[Global Media](#)

[Media](#)

[Creative](#)

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Please contact [workshops@asmentoring.co.uk](mailto:workshops@asmentoring.co.uk) for further questions - Good luck!  
AS Mentoring

## Some Exciting Changes Ahead at ASM in 2026

**As we look ahead to 2026, we wanted to share some important, and positive news about changes at AS Mentoring.**

**After 13 incredible years, our founder and Director, David Perkins, will be stepping back at the end of this year as he moves into retirement. At the same time, we're very happy to welcome Melba Mwanje, who will be joining us as our new Managing Director.**

**David founded AS Mentoring with a simple but powerful aim: to support autistic and neurodivergent people into work and help them thrive. Many of you will have met David, worked with him, or been mentored by him over the years. His passion for neurodiversity, combined with his straight-talking and practical approach, has shaped ASM into what it is today.**

**David, thank you for everything you've given to ASM and to the wider neurodivergent community. Your influence and legacy will continue well into the future.**

**We're also excited to welcome Melba Mwanje to the team. Melba brings fresh energy, new ideas, and a clear vision for where ASM can go next. She has extensive experience leading international communities, along with both professional and personal insight into neurodiversity. We're thrilled to have her on board.**



**As we move into 2026 under Melba's leadership, there's lots to look forward to — including a refreshed brand, a new website, and a stronger social media presence to help us reach and support even more people.**

**Thank you for being part of the ASM journey!**



## HERES A FEW WORDS ABOUT DAVID FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORKED WITH HIM OVER THE YEARS

Thank you and 3 cheers for David, for founding ASM and for your belief in creating opportunities for neurodivergent people, particularly the autistic community.

Because of David, 100's of ND people have entered employment, improved their wellbeing, and felt connected to society. And organisations have learned how to be genuinely inclusive by valuing neurodivergent talent. This was never a tick-box exercise or about profit for him. It was about making workplaces better for autistic people because he truly believed in their talent and their value.

David, we will miss you greatly, and we thank you for your leadership over the past 13 years!

David, thank you for the way you show up! Your mix of straight talking, deep care, and humour has shaped ASM more than any policy or process ever could. So much of what makes ASM human, grounded, and quietly effective comes directly from you. I am glad that you will stay with ASM as a trustee, and look forward to continuing working together.

Melba

'It's hard to express how grateful I am that I met David. It was the beginning of my life changing for the better in ways I could never have even imagined'.

I was immediately inspired by your commitment and dedication, and by the meaningful work you were leading to improve employment opportunities and conditions within the autism community.

It was this same powerful mission and vision that led you to found ASM in 2013—a vision that has remained at the very heart of every project ASM has undertaken since. I feel incredibly proud to have been part of ASM's journey and deeply humbled to witness its growth and the positive impact it has had on the lives of so many clients.

It would be an accepted fact that David's focus on the best interests of our client group informs his input and leadership. I have equally valued the freedom that he has given to individual team members at

ASM.

It has always been evident that if you could convince him of the merits of your approach towards a challenge in your role, he would support you and provide assistance where necessary. This commitment is invaluable in encouraging development and confidence amongst team members.

A tendency to 'say it like it is' and cut through the nonsense is also refreshing and energising.

It was a chance meeting that led me to AS Mentoring and I will never forget my first encounter with David - meeting under the clock at Waterloo Station. We had a great conversation that day and he inspired me with the work AS

Mentoring was doing. It's been a joy to work with him over the years and he's opened my eyes to the world of Neurodivergence. He's always been able to help me sort out problematic issues be it within my client work or supporting the business. It's going to be a big change for all of us, but it's good that David now has the chance to step back and see where the organisation goes in the future.

"David has been such an inspiration to me. Autism Forward would quite simply not exist if David had not suggested, the very first time I met him, that rather than work for AS Mentoring, what would be really helpful is if I could set up a charity to fund support for autistic job seekers as there is no public funding available. Roll on 7 years and Autism Forward has supported over 500 autistic people into work through our network of mentor partners, including the team at AS Mentoring. David has also helped us host numerous employer round tables that have led to internship programmes, training for employers and some amazing neurodiversity networks that now run independently. We could never have achieved this without David's expert advice, guidance and support at every step of the way. Thank you David and good luck and best wishes from all of us at Autism Forward."

(Jane Pierce, Chair of Trustees, Autism Forward).