

# **IPF Investment Education Programme at the University of Reading**

## **FAQ's & Application Information**

### **What are the entry requirements?**

The entry requirements for the **IPF IEP Programme** is a good first degree (normally upper second) or, an equivalent if from outside UK or a professional qualification such as FRICS, MRICS, ACA, ACCA. Students are also required to have a minimum of 3 year's work experience in a relevant industry.

Fluency in both written and spoken English (with a minimum IELTS level of 7 or higher)

### **What are the fees?**

The fees are currently £450 for the online module and £1950 per module for the taught modules. Students (or their sponsors) are invoiced after each module. It is not possible to guarantee that fees will remain fixed for the duration of a programme, as an annual increase is likely. Payment instructions will be sent to you once you have been accepted onto the programme.

### **How do I pay my fees?**

If you are sponsored by your company we can raise an invoice for your fees, or you can pay through our e-commerce website if you are paying your fees yourself by debit or credit card.

### **How do I apply?**

You can apply for the course by clicking on [Apply Now](#) and completing the online application form.

### **Do I have to have an appropriate English language qualification?**

Yes, IELTS is preferred- minimum score: 7.0. However, we recognize that this is not necessarily appropriate where students have already been educated in English and/or the language of their current workplace is English. We will require supporting evidence if this is the case.

### **Do you offer a distance learning course?**

The online module - Introduction to Property Investment is a distance learning module, but all other modules are taught at the University of Reading Whiteknights Campus in Reading.

### **How are the IPF Certificate modules taught and assessed?**

Generally, students receive some pre-reading approximately 3-4 weeks before a module commences. Students then attend the 4-5 day module at the University of Reading, Whiteknights Campus in the Henley Business School. Each classroom module is assessed individually by means of coursework, completed after the module, and due for submission around 8 weeks after the module has taken place.

### **I only want the IPF Certificate – what do I need to do?**

For the IPF Certificate you need to complete the on-line module Introduction to Property Investment, and taught modules Portfolio Management and Corporate Finance

### **I want the IPF Diploma – what do I need to do?**

For the IPF Diploma you need to attend the Portfolio Management and Corporate Finance, Real Estate Funding, Real Estate Investment Appraisal, and Real Estate Securities.

### **How are the in-class modules taught and assessed?**

The students come to the University of Reading for 4-5 day modules where there will be lectures, workshops, exercises, and presentations. Whilst at the University, students will be briefed on an assessment to be handed in 6-8 weeks after the module. It is estimated that students will need to work between 7 – 10 hours per week to complete the assignments.

### **Are the IPF Certificate and IPF Diploma awarded by the University?**

No these qualifications are awarded by the IPF, they are not University qualifications, however you may be eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate if you successfully complete 3 of the Flexible MSc modules. The IPF Certificate is FCA accredited.

### **How many students are there on a module?**

It can range from 5 - 25

### **Where does the teaching take place?**

The taught modules take place at the Henley Business School, Whiteknights campus at the University of Reading.

### **Overnight accommodation**

If you are staying at Reading, you will need to make your own booking, but there are rooms available in [Cedars Hotel](#), our on-site hotel facility. You should book in advance as it can get full. This is the only accommodation on campus, but there is a wide selection of hotels and guest houses in the vicinity.

### **What are the other students like?**

Diverse; many will be recent UK graduates employed by property advisory and investment firms who are in their early to mid-twenties. There are also a number of extremely well qualified real estate professionals in mid-career who are updating or enhancing their existing skills. We have a growing number of international students from Europe, the Middle East and South Africa and other countries.

**When can I start the IPF Certificate? Do I have to take the modules in a particular order?**

If you are new to the profession then we suggest that you start with the Introduction to Property Investment which is an online module and can be taken over a 3-month period. Students work through the material at their own pace and complete an assessment at the end. However it is possible to start with the Portfolio Management or Corporate Finance module instead, and then take the online module at a later date. The Programme Director will provide advice on this once you are accepted onto the programme.

**Can I speak to someone who is on the course already?**

Yes, it is a good way to find out if this is the course for you. We can help put you in touch with a current student.

**What support can I expect once the module has finished?**

You will be given access to Blackboard which is the virtual learning environment used by the University of Reading, accessed via the Internet. Course documents will be posted here, and there is a discussion board to enable students to debate work in between modules.

**Can I attend modules for CPD?**

Yes, you can attend any of the modules for continuing professional development. You would not be required to complete the assignment if you were attending on this basis.

**Can I go on to take a full Masters?**

Please see our FAQ sheet on working toward the Flexible MSc Real Estate Investment & Finance (IPF entry route) once you have successfully completed the IPF Diploma.

**Do I have to work toward the full MSc?**

No, you may complete your studies with the Postgraduate Diploma having attended and passed one further Flexible MSc module, having achieved the IPF Diploma before September 2016.

**How long will I have to complete my MSc degree?**

You will be registered on the programme for up to 6 years, so that you can spread your studies out if you wish, although it is anticipated that you will complete your degree in this time.

## **Where can I find further information?**

You can email [pg-rep-admin@reading.ac.uk](mailto:pg-rep-admin@reading.ac.uk) or look on our web page <http://www.henley.ac.uk/school/page/real-estate-and-planning-postgraduate-courses#pg-real-estate-planning-part-time-courses>