READING
REAL ESTATE
FOUNDATION

REVIEW

2024–
2025



Henley Business School
UNIVERSITY OF READING

RREF
Reading Real Estate Foundation

Our focus



Peter Miskell

Chair of the Board of Trustees,
Reading Real Estate Foundation (RREF)
Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education and Student Experience)
University of Reading

I'm delighted to share another remarkable year of achievement for RREF. In a time when the higher education sector and prospective students face growing economic challenges, the role of RREF has never been more crucial. Thanks to your continued generosity and support, we've remained steadfast in our mission. On behalf of my fellow Trustees, thank you.

We also acknowledge and thank long standing members of the RREF Board of Trustees who are stepping down this year, who have been tireless champions in helping RREF pursue its aims over the years. We look to the future welcoming new faces and fresh voices to drive RREF forward.

The Department of Real Estate & Planning once again achieved stellar rankings, with RREF right alongside the academics and professional services staff in supporting student experience on and off campus. Land and Property Management was ranked 1st in the UK, both overall and for research quality (Complete University Guide 2025), whilst Construction, Surveying and Planning was ranked 1st in the UK for graduate prospects (Guardian University Guide 2025). These results and others are a testament to the strength of Real Estate & Planning as a discipline at Reading, and to the impact of our work in supporting students to engage positively with industry professionals.

As we look forward, I'm excited to see how RREF continues to grow and evolve. Thank you once again for being part of our story – I look forward to sharing more in our next review.



Kerry Johnston

Executive Director,
Reading Real Estate Foundation (RREF)
Director of Engagement, Employability and Entrepreneurship, Henley Business School

The past academic year has once again been a busy one for RREF, as we continue raising awareness of the industry and championing diversity through Pathways to Property, supporting students through funding and enhancement activities and offering more opportunities for the industry to engage with us and the department.

Thanks to your support, over the last year we have engaged with more potential students through Pathways to Property than ever before and had the ability to offer vital support to many students in financial need, giving them the opportunity to complete their studies without financial worry and build better prospects for their future.

This year saw the welcomed return of the RREF Dinner to our events calendar, it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces in the room and welcome new supporters to a night of celebration and reflection, a highlight of the evening was hearing how the support of RREF has been so life-changing for one of our students, and by extension his family.

As you will be aware from the many stories in the press, these are difficult times for many students, but thanks to the support that you – as both industry and individuals – offer to RREF, we are able to offer an enhanced experience for our students and offer financial support to those in greatest need. Thank you.

Meet the Board
on p.20

Connecting industry and academia for positive social impact

More than twenty years after it was founded in 2002, the Reading Real Estate Foundation (RREF) continues to facilitate the exchange of knowledge between academia and practice, striving to move the Real Estate industry forward.

Positioned within Henley Business School, and aligned to one of the top Real Estate & Planning centres in Europe, RREF is uniquely positioned to champion change in the industry.

Increasing diversity

Our Pathways to Property project aims to widen access to the real estate profession by raising awareness of and aspirations about the vast range of careers available within the sector.

Developing talent

Through our financial support and student engagement programme we strive to ensure that the same opportunities are available to all students with the talent and ability to study at Henley Business School, regardless of their personal circumstances.

Exploring new ideas

We support the internationally recognised, cutting-edge research from the Department of Real Estate & Planning at Henley Business School through PhD funding for new talent; seed funding for new lines of enquiry; and funding of new innovations in teaching and learning.

We do this through three key pillars of activity: encouraging diverse talent to join the industry; supporting early career researchers to explore new ideas; and connecting academics with industry professionals to inform future research that enables the industry to positively impact society and informs policy and practice.







Your impact

Thanks to the generous support and commitment of our donors throughout the 2024–25 academic year, we've been able to deliver a broad range of initiatives aligned with our three core pillars: widening access to the sector, raising awareness of the diverse career paths available, and advancing innovation and research.

Your continued generosity enables us to attract outstanding students to the Department of Real Estate & Planning at Henley Business School – regardless of background – and to support their journey into the industry through mentoring, networking, and professional development. It also empowers us to push the boundaries of knowledge through the creation of pioneering research that helps shape the future of the field.

21
UG & PG Prizes awarded

9
Access Internship Bursaries

197
Mentoring Partnerships

3
Seed Funded Research Projects

144
Participants at Pathways Summer School

£ 282,282
Total amount disbursed to students including:

£ 136,000
Disbursed to 18 students as Greatest Financial Need Bursaries

£ 10,100
Disbursed over 11 Hardship Grants

£ 92,198
Disbursed over 7 scholarships







Working together to shape the future of Real Estate

Spotlight on a Corporate Patron: Savills

Our collaboration with Savills exemplifies the powerful impact that good working relationships between industry and education can have. As a long-standing Corporate Patron, Savills plays an integral role in the life of RREF, not only through their generous support, but through their active, hands-on involvement in shaping the future of the real estate profession.

Throughout the year, Savills contributes across multiple touchpoints. Their presence at our Careers Fair offers students direct access to industry insight and opportunity. Their commitment to Pathways to Property through hosting Insight Days, supporting our Summer School, and offering placement opportunities, helps open doors for young people from less-advantaged backgrounds, broadening access to the real estate sector.

Savills also shares expertise with students through the RREF Evening Lecture Programme; the company actively supports student development by sponsoring the Industry Challenge Teamwork Prize, part of the Disruptive Innovation in Real Estate module, together with engaging in some lectures that lead up to it.

This is a truly collaborative, two-way relationship, one that reflects shared values and a mutual commitment to nurturing talent, promoting diversity, and supporting the next generation of real estate professionals. We're proud that this year, 19 students from the University of Reading will be joining Savills, a testament to the real and lasting impact of RREF.

> "I am very proud to play a role in Savills longstanding relationship with the University of Reading and our commitment as a business to supporting the next generation of real estate professionals. Year after year I am struck by the enthusiasm of the students who participate in the RREF programme, exemplified by the engagement of the 150+ students who attend our RREF lecture each year, most recently in October.
>
> **Kat Norton, Director, Development Management at Savills and RREF Trustee**









Widening access to the industry

Pathways to Property

Launched in 2012, the Pathways to Property project aims to widen access to the real estate profession by raising awareness of and aspirations about the vast range of careers available within the sector. Led by RREF, the project was established as a response to the recognised lack of diversity in the industry. Through a successful outreach programme, the project exposes students from less advantaged and non-traditional backgrounds to opportunities within the property industry.

Summer School

The thirteenth Pathways to Property Summer School took place between 8–11 July 2025, at the University of Reading campus. 144 students from Year 12 of school/college joined us over the course of four days to take part in taster lectures, a site visit, sessions offering careers advice, a group project and the opportunity to meet a selection of recent graduates, apprentices and professionals during a vibrant careers fair. In addition to learning about the property industry, the participants were able to learn some key networking skills, develop their confidence, improve teamwork, presentation and time management skills and meet other like-minded young people. We will continue to work closely with the participants through the course of the Pathways programme and they will be invited to take part in both our work experience and e-mentoring programme. They will also be able to apply for a bursary of up to £30,000 in financial support if they study a property related degree at Henley Business School over three years of study, as well as additional support as required from the team to progress their journey into the industry.

We would like to thank all the industry volunteers who joined us during the Summer School to share their experiences with the participants and provide feedback on their final presentations. Many thanks also to Lincoln for hosting the outstanding site visit this year.

703
applications to the 2025 Summer School

144
Summer School attendees in 2025

1,287
students have completed our summer school since 2012

56%
of the 2025 Summer School attendees were female

90%
living in area of deprivation (IMD Quintile 1 or 2)

Additional activities

We have delivered six Insight Days in Leeds, Manchester, London, Birmingham, Bristol and Cambridge. 122 young people attended these events. Insight Days give young people an alternative way to engage in the programme, strengthening engagement with schools and industry partners in locations across the UK. At these events, participants develop knowledge of the industry, undertake a site visit and present project work to a panel of industry experts.

Participants of Insight Days can join the Summer School participants in being able to undertake work experience placements, e-mentoring and apply for bursaries as a part of their journey on the Pathways to Property programme.

A Taster day was held by the Real Estate & Planning department at the University of Reading for those who applied to our summer school, but weren't able to secure a place.

Open Online Course (OOC)

The OOC has been designed by leading academics at Henley Business School to encourage more students to consider pursuing a career in property. Lasting three weeks and requiring around 6 hours of study, the online course is a great resource for younger students beginning to think about their career options or students that are unable to join the Pathways to Property Summer School. Since the course was launched in 2018, around 32,000 students have signed up to complete the OOC.

> "I want to first say thank you for having me and that this was one of the best experiences I have ever had. I have learnt more about real estate and have developed skills on how to interact with new people. I have made new friends and have been able to socialise and overall had a great time.
>
> **Pathways to Property Summer School Participant**

School outreach

The Pathways to Property team attended multiple online and face to-face careers events throughout 2024/25 to get young people thinking about careers in property and answer their questions. These events were a mixture of school talks, webinars and careers events. In addition, we provided schools with a selection of pre-recorded content that could be shared with students, providing them with more information about careers in property, routes into the industry and how to get support through the Pathways to Property programme.

82% **Summer School attendees were eligible to receive free school meals**

85% **attendees are likely or very likely to consider a career in property**

71 **participants undertook work experience placements in 2024/25**

In 2024/25 we...

ATTENDED **30** EVENTS

ENGAGED WITH AT LEAST

1750 students

81 teachers

60 parents







Access Internships

Alongside the Pathways to Property programme, we continue to champion equal access to the sector by raising awareness, improving understanding, and showcasing the wide range of career opportunities available in Real Estate and Planning.

7
companies involved

9
Access Summer bursaries disbursed totalling £17,284

9
students supported

RREF Access Internships

We are committed to promoting Real Estate & Planning as a field of study for talented students from all backgrounds – particularly those who may not have existing connections within the industry. The RREF Access Internship scheme plays a key role in this mission, helping students overcome social or experiential barriers to entry and supporting fair access to the profession. We are delighted that this scheme has now been running for over ten years and has been able to support 180 students to garner essential work experience in that time.

All internships in the 2024/25 cycle were delivered in person, and we are grateful to the host companies for their generous support and for providing students with invaluable industry experience.

> "Being part of the RREF Access Internship Scheme has been so amazing and inspiring. It has really helped me to understand what I want to do in the future.
>
> **Access Internship participant**

The AreYou? Bursary

Launched in 2023 by successful Real Estate entrepreneur Richard Upton, the AreYou? Bursary is inspired by Richard's own experience of entering the industry from a non-traditional background. Driven by a commitment to helping talented students overcome financial barriers, the bursary provides £20,000 annually for each of the three years of undergraduate study, enabling recipients to access and thrive at university.



> "Your support has not only empowered me to excel academically and professionally but has also laid the foundation for me to contribute meaningfully to society. For that, I remain profoundly grateful.
>
> **Mith, AreYou? Bursary recipient**

Financial support

RREF is committed to supporting students financially – from providing bursaries that help them attend university to offering up to £1,000 Hardship Grants for those facing unexpected financial difficulties. Without this support, many students would be unable to begin or complete their studies, with their future prospects significantly affected by their circumstances.

11
Hardship grants disbursed to new recipients

18
Greatest financial need bursaries disbursed

£136,000
Disbursed as Greatest need bursaries

> "This assistance has made a significant difference for me, alleviating some of the financial stress I have been facing and allowing me to focus on my studies without constant worry.
> Your kindness and the generosity of those who contribute to this fund have not gone unnoticed. It is truly uplifting to know that there are people who care and are willing to support students like myself during difficult times. This grant has provided me with not just financial relief but also a renewed sense of motivation and encouragement.
>
> **MSc Hardship Grant recipient**

> "This financial support has made a tremendous difference in easing my financial burdens and allowing me to focus more fully on my academic studies. Your generosity is truly inspiring and a reminder of the power of community.
>
> **BSc Real Estate Hardship Grant Recipient**

> "The support I have received through this bursary has alleviated so much financial stress, allowing me to fully immerse myself into university life as well as focus on achieving my goals of securing a graduate scheme this year
>
> **Paige, Derwent London LLP Bursary Recipient, 2024–25**

Student support



In addition to financial support, RREF delivers a range of activities that provide REP students with valuable networking opportunities and help them build industry connections while supporting their personal and professional development.

RREF Careers Fair

The annual RREF Careers Fair offers students a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of the real estate industry and gain practical insights. It enables students to connect with a wide range of companies, build their professional networks, and prepare for upcoming internship and graduate placement opportunities. For participating firms, the fair is also a chance to engage with talented students who benefit from a high-quality education.

36
employers

270
students attended

> "It was a great day and an opportunity to connect with industry experts – I'll be sure to carry forward their advice.
>
> **BSc Real Estate Student**

Student Wellbeing Programme

Since 2019, RREF has funded the Student Wellbeing Programme, offering tailored support to current REP students. The programme focuses on helping students manage academic pressure, maintain personal wellbeing, and develop practical strategies to succeed throughout their studies.

Led by Dr Alicia Peña Bizama, a Chartered Counselling Psychologist and Occupational Psychologist, the programme provides one-to-one tutorials, delivered both in person and online, to help students reach their full potential.

Following a successful pilot, the programme has continued to evolve. In the 2024/25 academic year, it placed particular emphasis on the transition into studies. Engagement remained strong across both undergraduate and postgraduate students, including home and international cohorts. Students consistently described the support as a valuable and supportive resource during their time at university.

> "I am incredibly grateful for the support provided by the school's well-being counselling program, which significantly improved my mental health and enabled the successful completion of my studies.
>
> **MSc Real Estate Student**

RREF mentoring

Seventeen years after it was first launched, the RREF Mentoring programme continues to change the lives of aspiring Real Estate professionals at Henley Business School. Balancing intensive study with active preparations for life in the workplace can be really challenging. Our mentors help provide invaluable guidance and support to ease this process. From helping advise on job applications and sharing industry insights, to opening doors to help grow their networks, the mentors on this programme are making a huge difference to our students.

197
mentoring partnerships in 2024–25

The impact on mentees

> My mentor offered consistent encouragement and valuable insights into the industry. His advice helped shape both my academic and professional goals, giving me a clearer direction and practical strategies to move forward confidently in my chosen career path. His dedication, patience, and generosity have had a lasting impact on my development.
>
> **Masters mentee**

How can I get involved?

Our mentors support students in various ways to help them prepare for a career in Real Estate and Planning. They talk to our students about life in the industry, share their own experiences, offer guidance on job applications and open doors by making introductions to colleagues and peers. Seeing the progress mentees make during the partnership is highly rewarding. If you would like to sign-up as a mentor, please scan the QR code. Thank you to all our mentors for the difference you are making with your time, effort and commitment.

The mentor experience

> She consistently takes the initiative in organising meetings, arriving punctually and fully prepared with thoughtful topics for discussion. She takes the initiative and follows up on introductions and impressing contacts in the sector with her confidence and professionalism.
>
> **Real Estate Development Mentor**

> He exhibited keen interest in real estate and market dynamics, asking insightful questions and actively exchanging ideas. His proactive approach and ability to leverage his knowledge to generate innovative ideas were truly commendable. His positive attitude and openness to guidance were evident. When introduced to peers and discussing job offers, he carefully considered the advice given. His dedication to seeking and applying career advice leaves no doubt he will succeed in his career.
>
> **Real Estate Finance Mentor**

RREF recognition evening

In 2025 we were delighted to once again bring together our supporters and mentoring participants at the offices of Stephenson Hawood Law LLP to celebrate our combined achievements.

A highlight of the evening was hearing from current student Nicole Maumbe who shared a thought provoking speech with our audience on the significance of supporting the next generation of real estate professionals.

> "Thank you for believing in us, investing in our futures, and ensuring that aspiring real estate professionals – no matter their background – have the opportunities and support to succeed. Your generosity doesn't just help us today; it shapes our careers and futures.
>
> I feel incredibly lucky to be part of this community, and I hope that one day, I can give back in the same way you all have.
>
> **Nicole Maumbe, BSc Real Estate & Planning**









The Mentor and Mentee of the Year Awards for 2025 will be presented at the 2026 Recognition Evening. Every year we receive such moving and inspiring nominations and find it difficult to come to an agreement about the overall winners.

This year was the toughest year yet and we could not choose between two of the mentor nominees. We have therefore decided to award two Mentor of the Year Awards for 2025 to Luke Daines and Stephen P. Peca. We are also delighted to announce the Mentee of the Year 2025 has been awarded to Tom Deacon.

Supporting academic excellence

John Miles Memorial Scholarship

The John Miles Memorial Scholarship Fund was launched in 2022 in memory of Reading Alumnus John Miles by his former business partners, celebrating excellence and rewarding outstanding students studying an undergraduate Real Estate Degree. The scholarship provides funding towards the students' studies, and successful applicants are offered mentoring and internship opportunities.

For the 2024/25 academic year, the Scholarship was repositioned as a tuition fee award to cover the recipient's second year of study. It is awarded to the highest-performing first-year student across all three Real Estate & Planning undergraduate programmes, based on overall end-of-year marks. In addition to tuition fee support, recipients now also benefit from placement opportunities with Green & Partners and DTRE.

In 2024 the Scholarship was awarded to Henry Blatchford who is studying BSc Real Estate, who says:

> "This prestigious award is a gratifying recognition of my academic work and carries particular significance, knowing that accomplished members of the real estate industry have selected me as their newest beneficiary. [...] I look forward to continuing my studies as I determine a career path to follow. Thank you again for your vote of confidence.
>
> **Henry Blatchford, BSc Real Estate, John Miles Memorial Scholarship recipient**



PhD scholarships

Every year, we support postgraduate research students who are on the REP PhD programme. We are committed to furthering the advancement of research, and this support allows postgraduate students to start their research career at Henley Business School. These awards allow the department to continue to be at the forefront of research in real estate and planning, as we can attract the best minds and provide them with the time and space they need to succeed. In 2024/25, the below candidates received a RREF PhD Scholarship:

- **Amirhossein Bakhshi, research topic:** Big data insights into residential segregation and its impact on housing prices
- **Gyojun Shin, research topic:** The impact of sea-level rise and government funding for coastal erosion risk management on commercial property price
- **Boo Il Lim, research topic:** The Influence of ESG Disagreement on REIT Risks and Returns; Different responses to Climate-related risks according to the ESG rating agencies create confusion for investors
- **Ellen Kwofie, research topic:** Appraising the Appraisal: An investigation of Real Estate appraisal production and complexities in Ghana

> "When I moved to the UK to begin my PhD, I knew it would be both exciting and challenging. Thanks to the support of RREF, I've been able to focus on my research and make the most of this opportunity. The scholarship has given me the stability to grow within a great PhD environment, to work with an excellent supervisory team, and to build a strong foundation for my academic and personal journey. None of this would have been possible without RREF's support, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunities it has opened for me.
>
> **Amirhossein Bakhshi**

RREF Dinner

After a seven-year hiatus, the highly anticipated RREF Dinner made a spectacular return this year and what an unforgettable evening it was.

Held at the stunning One Great George Street in the heart of Westminster, the event drew over 150 alumni and real estate professionals from across the UK and around the world, all coming together to celebrate the RREF community. The evening began with a sparkling drinks reception, generously sponsored by Yugo. Guests were then treated to an exquisite three-course meal in the iconic Great Hall.

Guests connected with old friends and colleagues and made new professional connections. From heartfelt conversations to laughter and celebration, the event was a resounding success and a true testament to the strength and spirit of the RREF network.

We also heard from student Mith Sivapalan. Mith attended Pathways to Property Summer School and then joined Henley Business School on the BSc programme, thanks to the AreYou? Bursary. This bursary was generously established by Richard Upton, Founder of AreYou?, in 2023. Hearing about how RREF has changed his life was truly moving.

Excerpts from Mith's speech

"The award relieved not only my financial concerns, but also that of my mother's. The greatest guilt that consumes a parent is the underlying belief that they weren't able to provide for you as someone else might have. And consequently having to grapple with the possibility that they have conferred to you the same existence they encounter: a life riven with uncertainty, meagre pay and dwindling agency. It's a life some live, others have witnessed, and yet – all of you have removed it as a possibility for me; for that I am indebted.

Throughout sixth form, I worked two – sometimes three – jobs concurrently. Going to university sounded far-fetched. But I was lucky. I grew up in what was voted the ugliest town in the UK – Hemel Hempstead. Let's just say I had a few thoughts.

Eventually, my geography teacher, Martin Macdonald, got fed up and he signed me up for Pathways to Property.

I fell into Pathways. Then into work experience at Savills, thanks to RREF. And then I fell into Richard's bursary. Today, having just finished my second year, I'll be interning at Principal Asset Management in their European Data Centre Fund. Following that, Kennedy Wilson, underwriting equity and credit investments across the living sector.

My expected outcomes at 16 diverge completely from my reality today. That delta is entirely attributable to Richard, RREF and their staff, my university lecturers (Christopher and Gianluca), and of course – all of you.

Thank you for the opportunity. It's one I intend to pay forward.













On the night we also raised money for our Greatest Need fund which enables us to channel financial support to where it is needed the most by our RREF beneficiaries. If you would like to donate and support then please visit:

Corporate support

9
Corporate patrons

To achieve its aims, RREF depends on the generous support of our network of alumni, friends, and industry partners; among our most vital supporters are our Corporate Patrons.

These organisations provide essential financial backing through annual support, enabling RREF to deliver transformative programmes that directly benefit students, researchers, and the broader industry. Their support helps fund our core educational initiatives, seed new avenues of academic research through the RREF Seed Fund, and provide students with unparalleled opportunities to connect with the professional world.

Their impact and influence reaches far beyond funding. Corporate Patrons actively shape the future of real estate education. Through opportunities such as the RREF Evening Lecture Programme, they share expertise and industry insight, giving students first-hand exposure to the evolving challenges and innovations in the sector. These experiences are crucial in bridging the gap between academic study and professional practice.

If your organisation is committed to developing talent, advancing research, and helping shape the future of the industry, we welcome you to join our network of Corporate Patrons. Discover more by scanning the QR Code.

> "The RREF Evening Lectures massively helped when it came to my commercial awareness and networking. To have different speakers each week with different insights on different sectors helped when it came to interviews as even if it was a topic that you weren't that educated on you could still have some understanding of the topic and be able to comment.
>
> **BSc Real Estate student**

Prizes

RREF works in partnership with industry sponsors to offer a range of prizes designed to motivate students to achieve their full potential. These awards recognise academic excellence and encourage students to make the most of the outstanding resources, teaching, and support available at Henley Business School. Prizes are awarded both for exceptional coursework and, at graduation, for overall academic achievement and excellence.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Derwent London, Savills and Stephenson Harwood for their generous support of our prizes this year.

21
students awarded a prize

3
industry-sponsored prizes

4
students awarded a Graduation prize

£3,200
total prize value

Teaching and learning
Funded research

The Department of Real Estate & Planning has enjoyed over 55 years of academic excellence and its programmes are regularly ranked among the best in the UK. With decades-strong links to the property industry, the department's faculty have been curating a significant knowledge exchange for many years. Current students, graduates and the industry all benefit greatly from this partnership and the knowledge that is produced has a discernible impact beyond academia.

4
research projects supported

RREF seed funding

One way that RREF contributes to this activity is by providing seed funding for new areas of enquiry. Examples of how such funding is spent includes: student research assistance for data collection and analysis, support for the costs of interviews and fieldwork, and funding for hosting workshops and symposia that have facilitated collaboration and enabled the dissemination of research to new audiences. The following projects were among those receiving funding in 2024/25:

- **Ziyou Wang**
  Land inequality and local governance: Evidence from China
- **Yi Wu**
  Emerging trends in mobility and socio-spatial sorting: insights from big data analysis
- **Ren Ren**
  Climate risk and housing supply elasticity



The David Robins Fund

Another way RREF supports quality research is through the David Robins Fund. The David Robins Fund has been created with the generous bequest of Dr David Robins, a Geography alumnus who graduated from Reading in 1954 before going on to gain a PhD and develop a career in town planning, notably developing the discipline in South Africa.

The fund has been created in David's memory to support the development of outstanding research in Town and Country Planning at the Department of Real Estate & Planning. This year the following project received funding from the David Robins Fund.

- **Angelique Chettiparamb, Yiquan Gu and Kaio Nogueira**
  The added value of Section 106 Agreements and CIL in England
  Project summary: The project will analyse the spatial and social equity impacts of Section 106 Agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in England. It will explore to what extent the benefits raised with the contributions present a fair and equitable distribution in space both at a national (England) scale and within a local authority area. Fraser's (2008) framework based on redistribution, recognition, and participation will be used to evaluate what benefits have accrued to whom and why. To this end, the project employs approaches involving both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

Opportunity and Impact: Strengthening the RREF network for all

The RG10 Committee continues to deliver a variety of activities for Real Estate & Planning graduates from the past decade. This year, they've introduced new formats focused on two key areas:

New graduate support

The first priority is helping new graduates setting out on their real estate career path. RG10 hosted networking events like seasonal drinks and a Padel evening at Canada Water – encouraging informal connections. Graduates are also invited to join the Henley Live RG10 Group where they can connect with fellow graduates and find advice on topics like doing their APC and job opportunities.

Taking the next step

The second priority has been to reconnect with graduates 5–10 years into their careers. The RG10's held a webinar on working overseas in Australia featuring insights from three panellists. In July they hosted a Pre-Pride Supper where valuable conversations flowed and new connections made. Following its success, the committee plans to expand this series.

Connect with the RG10s

RG10
Reading Real Estate Foundation



RREF Engagement Committee

We're excited to announce the formation of the new RREF Engagement Committee, which now replaces the former Events and Development Committees. The formation of this committee will work closely with the RREF executive team to raise the profile of RREF within the real estate industry.

Through collaborative initiatives and strategic outreach, the committee will drive engagement efforts to raise awareness of RREF, deepen community involvement, and strengthen relationships across the real estate sector. The committee members bring diverse expertise from across the industry and we're confident this new chapter will aid RREF's mission.

If you're interested in getting involved with the RREF Engagement Committee or supporting our fundraising activity please contact us: **rref-development@henley.ac.uk**

Other RREF activities

Our Real Estate & Planning Alumni and Industry Networking event brought together industry experts, practitioners and academics for a panel discussion at the Future of Planning Conference. Featuring industry experts from the RTPI South East, the Planning Officers' Society, the Planning Advisory Service, and leading academics. Topics included climate change, digitisation, AI, and the evolving planning profession, alongside the launch of two new books: Slow Planning and The Future of Planners. This informal event was a great opportunity to network with industry professionals, academics and other Real Estate & Planning alumni.

For any collaboration opportunities or events, please contact the RREF Events Team on **rref-events@henley.ac.uk**

Shaping the future of RREF

We can only continue to deliver such a consistent level of high-quality results through the generosity of our donors, supporters and volunteers. The collective support of REP alumni, friends and the industry allows RREF to achieve and support a number of activities to benefit and enhance the sector.

How can I get involved?

RREF is reliant on the generosity of individual and corporate supporters to ensure we can continue to operate and grow as an educational charity. From those who give financially to our work, to individuals who sacrifice their time to mentor current students, all support is gratefully received.

Get involved here

Get in touch

We welcome your feedback, insights into current industry best practice, updates on current sector challenges and opportunities, as well as general updates from our community.
RREF-development@henley.ac.uk

Volunteering

Volunteers continue to play a vital role in the success and impact of our initiatives. We extend our sincere appreciation to the mentors, guest speakers, placement and internship hosts, committee members, and all others who generously contribute their time and expertise. Your commitment provides invaluable support to our students and the wider industry, helping to ensure that Henley Business School students are well-prepared to enter the sector and thrive within it.

You can volunteer

We are deeply thankful to the hundreds of professionals who, through their voluntary efforts, are actively contributing to the growth and excellence of the Real Estate industry.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer – whether as a mentor, speaker, or in another capacity – please get in touch by scanning the QR code provided.

Meet the Board

Industry Trustees



Paddy Allen
CEO, Kinetic Capital



David Atkins
Chair, Landmark and Non-Executive Director, Whitbread (until February 2025)



Professor Emerita Ginny Gibson
Non-Executive Director, ABE & Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust



Ben Ingram
Head of Real Estate, Armstrong International (from February 2025)



Samantha Kempe
Co-founder/CIO IMMO (from February 2025)



Stafford Lancaster
Chief Investment Officer, Delancey (until June 2025)



Kat Norton
Director, Development Management, Savills



Mark Ridley
Group Chief Executive, Savills



Chris Taylor
CEO of Real Estate & Head of Private Markets (International), Federated Hermes



Catherine Webster
CEO Thriving Investments (from June 2025)

University staff



Chair: Professor Peter Miskell
Pro-Vice Chancellor, (Education and Student Experience), University of Reading



Professor Kleio Akrivou
Director of the Centre for Business Ethics and Sustainability, Henley Business School



Professor Angelique Chettiparamb
Joint Head of Real Estate Department & Research Division Lead, Real Estate & Planning, Henley Business School, University of Reading



Jean-Pierre Choulet
Director of Operations & Strategic Projects, Henley Business School



Professor Eamonn D'Arcy
Joint Head of Real Estate & Planning & PG Programme Area Director, Real Estate & Planning, Henley Business School, University of Reading



Professor Richard Tranter
Research Professor of Rural Economy, Agri-Food Economics and Marketing, University of Reading

"While many universities offer excellent curriculum and teaching, what truly sets Reading apart in the real estate field is the additional backing from the Reading Real Estate Foundation.

BSc Real Estate Student

Donor recognition

1 August 2024 to 31 August 2025

Pathways to Property supporters

We are immensely grateful to the organisations whose generous financial and in-kind support makes Pathways to Property possible. Their commitment helps us open doors for young people from less-advantaged backgrounds, providing them with the knowledge, confidence, and connections to explore careers in the property sector. Thanks to their support, we are able to inspire the next generation of talent and help build a more diverse and inclusive industry.

Gold Level

- British Land
- Savills plc
- SEGRO plc
- The Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors
- UPP Foundation

Silver Level

- Cadogan Estates
- The Crown Estate
- Newmark
- Montagu Evans
- Oxford Properties
- Student Living Sailing Regatta

Bronze Level

- Barclays Bank
- Carter Jonas
- Colliers International (UK)
- Eastdil Secured
- Frogmore Real Estate Investment Managers Ltd
- Gooch Cunliffe Whale LLP
- Great Portland Estate
- Grosvenor Estate Management Ltd
- Hollis
- Industrial Reit & Life
- Kajima Properties (Europe) Limited
- Knight Frank LLP
- Muse Developments
- Shaftesbury Capital
- W.P. Carey Inc.

Other supporters

- Dentons
- John Lewis Partnership
- Kinetic Capital
- Moda Living
- Global Student Accommodation
- The Dot Group
- Yugo



In 2024/5, individual supporters and firms volunteered over 1,400 hours to support the Pathways to Property project by:

- Supporting the 2025 Summer School, from hosting site visits to engaging with the students throughout the week
- Engaging students and teachers through our school outreach programme
- Hosting a work experience placement
- Supporting our Open Online Course
- Hosting and participating in six regional Insight Days

RREF supporters

We would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their support of RREF. Your support enable us to fund vital initiatives, create opportunities for students, and strengthen the future of the real estate sector. Thank you for being an essential part of our community.

Corporate patrons

Organisations who commit to supporting RREF with an annual gift of at least £5,000–£10,000.

Berkeley Group	Knight Frank
BNP Paribas Real Estate	Newmark
Cushman & Wakefield	SEGRO
Eastdil Secured	Savills
Indurent	

Student prize sponsors

Organisations who sponsor graduation prizes for Real Estate & Planning students.

Company	Prize supported
Derwent London	Derwent London Prize for Best Performing Student, Investment & Finance Pathway
Savills plc	Savills 'Dragons Den' Teamwork Activity
Stephenson Harwood	Award for the Best performing undergraduate and post-graduate in the Property Law Module

Access Internship Bursary sponsors

Organisations that support the RREF Access Internship Bursary.

Apache Capital Partners	Newmark
Carter Jonas LLP	The Crown Estate
Grosvenor Property UK	Tritax Management Ltd
Lambert Smith Hampton	





We are very grateful to all the companies who support RREF through corporate partnerships, community initiatives, and generous contributions. If your organisation is passionate about nurturing talent, driving innovation, and making a lasting impact, we invite you to join our growing network of Corporate Patrons.

To find out more or explore how you can get involved, please contact us at **RREF-development@henley.ac.uk**

Donor recognition

Major donors

Organisations, Trusts and Individuals who have made a significant contribution to RREF of £5,000 or above.

Name	Graduation year	Fund supported
Nigel Bennett	1989	Greatest Need
Tony Dean	2000	Greatest Need
Derwent London	–	Derwent London plc Bursary
Keith Elliott	2008	Keith Elliott Student Bursary
Landsec	–	Landsec Bursary
Aubrey Orchard-Lisle Charitable Trust		Aubrey Orchard-Lisle Charitable Trust Bursary
Mark Ridley	1984	Greatest Need
Richard Upton	1988	AreYou? Bursary

Ambassadors

Organisations, Trusts and Individuals who have made a contribution to RREF Annual Funds between £3,000 and £4,999.

Name	Graduation year	Fund supported
David Atkins	1988	Greatest Need
Stafford Lancaster	1989	Greatest Need
Anne Robins	–	David Robins Town & Country Planning

Pioneers

Organisations, Trusts and Individuals who have made a contribution to RREF Annual Funds or other RREF Funds between £1,000 and £2,999.

Name	Graduation year	Fund supported
Mike Brown	1983	Greatest Need
P A Copeland	–	Drivers Jonas
Paul Disley-Tindell	1991	Greatest Need
Robert Fowlds	1983	Greatest Need
Ginny Gibson	1981	Greatest Need
Gerald Kaye	1979	Greatest Need
Dominic Rowe	1988	Student Support
Paul Smith	1982	Student Support

Become a donor









We also would like to thank those who have chosen to give to us anonymously across all levels of support.

Friends

Individuals who support RREF Annual Funds or other RREF Funds with a single or regular donation of up to £1,000 each year.

Name	Graduation year	Fund supported
Alastair Adair	1982	Greatest Need
Andrew Aherne	1987	Widening Participation
David Ainsworth	1979	Greatest Need
Jeremy Aitchison	1979	Greatest Need
Paddy Allen	2005	Greatest Need
Iain Allsop	1996	Student Support
James Armstrong	1995	Greatest Need
Simon Baker	1989	Greatest Need
Aurora Barrett	2020	Greatest Need
David Bass	1975	Widening Participation
William Benjamin	–	Pathways to Property
John Birtwistle	1978	Greatest Need
James Boadle	–	Greatest Need
James Bowdidge	1981	Greatest Need
Tim Brock	–	Greatest Need
Dan Butt	–	Greatest Need
Carol Byrne	–	Peter Byrne Research Excellence
Iain Cahoon	2001	Greatest Need
Jean-Pierre Choulet	–	Greatest Need
Andrew Clark	1976	Greatest Need
Anne Connon	–	Greatest Need
S Cove	–	Greatest Need
Richard Cutler	1989	Student Support
Nigel Darlington	1981	Greatest Need
Michael Dean	2004	Greatest Need
Mark Disney	1988	Widening Participation
Jay Drexler	–	Pathways to Property
Crinan Dunbar	1998	Greatest Need
Matthew Edgar	1984	Greatest Need
Keith Elliott	2008	Greatest Need
Micheala Ellis	–	Greatest Need
Julian Evans	2007	Greatest Need
Robin Everall	–	Greatest Need
Richard Eyley	2002	Greatest Need
Tamzin Eyre	1996	Greatest Need
Nigel Fox	1989	Greatest Need
Iain Franklin	2012	Greatest Need
C K Galbraith	–	Greatest Need
Luca Garoli	–	Pathways to Property
James George	1973	Greatest Need
David Green	1990	Greatest Need
Gary Hale	1981	Greatest Need
Toby Hall	2005	Greatest Need
Paul Holdsworth	2012	Pathways to Property
Alex Housego	2011	Greatest Need

Name	Graduation year	Fund supported
Mike Jenkins	–	Greatest Need
Anna Jones	–	Greatest Need
Michael Jones	2009	Drivers Jonas Bursary
Katerina Kaimakamis	–	Pathways to Property
Glenn Keough	–	Greatest Need and Pathways to Property
Mohammed Khan	–	Pathways to Property
Nick King	1989	Student Support
Alexander Kington	1999	Greatest Need
Harry Knibb	2010	Greatest Need
Steven Lang	1996	Greatest Need
Rod Lockhart	2003	Greatest Need
Steve Magorrian	1981	Greatest Need
Andrew Marshall	2006	Greatest Need
Alister McCutchion	1995	Greatest Need
Gary McNamara	2003	Greatest Need
Pauline Martin	1969	Greatest Need
Anna Mayhead	–	Greatest Need
Gregory Moore	1983	Greatest Need
Estelle Murer	–	Pathways to Property
Julian Norbury	–	John Miles Memorial Scholarship
Keith Norman	1988	Greatest Need
Kat Norton	2004	Greatest Need
Siobhan OConnor	–	Pathways to Property
Will Noy	2009	Greatest Need
Bunmi Olafare	2008	Greatest Need
Nick Pemberton	1995	Greatest Need
Lewis Prosser	2011	Greatest Need
Rebecca Rawlinson	–	Pathways to Property
Bill Redfern	1981	Greatest Need
Michael Regan	1989	Student Support
Andrew Reynolds	1979	Greatest Need
Benjamin Richards	2024	Greatest Need
Robert Richardson	1998	Greatest Need
Oliver E Rippier	2004	Greatest Need
Nicholas Sissling	–	Pathways to Property
Adrian Smith	1995	Greatest Need
Douglas Stevens	1977	Greatest Need
Sarah Thorley	2018	Greatest Need
Rob Timmins	2011	Greatest Need
Mark Titcomb	1984	Greatest Need
Crispin Topping	1982	Greatest Need
Natalie Turner	–	Pathways to Property
Joanne Wilkes	1984	Student Support
John Wythe	1978	Widening Participation

Stay connected

Henley Live

Henley Live is Henley Business School's online community which has dedicated areas for Real Estate & Planning alumni and RREF's key supporters. The platform has been designed and customised to be the home of networking and learning.

Key features include:

- Regular expert knowledge and access to past webinar recordings
- RG10 Group
- Peer-to-peer and graduate-to-student mentoring
- Careers support for recent graduates
- Live community map
- Upcoming global events

What next?

All REP alumni and RREF supporters are warmly encouraged to join. Simply visit the webpage and click 'request to join'. Once you are accepted, you can start networking, learning and much more.

Register for free today:

Are you receiving the monthly RREF newsletter?

Stay connected with RREF news, activities and upcoming events.

Sign up here:

Make sure you stay up to date on our social media.
You can follow us here:

Legacy giving

A legacy gift is more than giving – it's about creating a future where education unlocks potential and drives progress for generations to come. Pledging a legacy will cost you nothing today, but will be of immense value to Reading Real Estate Foundation in years to come.

By leaving a gift in your Will to the Reading Real Estate Foundation (RREF), you become part of a lasting legacy of opportunity, progress, and transformation. Your generosity can shape the future of students who might otherwise never access a world-class education, inspire innovative research that changes the real estate sector, and help ensure that talent, not circumstance, defines success.

Legacies can be used to support many different aspects of the RREF's work, and we would be very happy to discuss with you how you would like your gift to be used.

How to leave a legacy gift

We recommend seeking guidance from a legal adviser or accountant when creating a new Will or updating an existing one. There are flexible ways to support RREF while ensuring your loved ones are cared for:

The main types of legacy gifts are:

Residuary – a percentage, or all, of your estate (after debts, funeral costs and pecuniary gifts are paid).

Pecuniary – the gift of a specific sum, which can be index-linked to safeguard its future value.

Specific – the gift of a particular item to be used or sold by the University.

Reversionary – this type of legacy allows you to leave your assets to your friends and family for their lifetime, after which the gift will revert to the University of Reading.

Your solicitor can help you decide which option best reflects your intentions.

If you do choose to remember RREF in your Will, please consider letting us know. Any details you share will be treated with complete confidentiality and are not legally binding, but they do allow us to express our thanks and acknowledge your extraordinary generosity in your lifetime.

You may be interested to hear that any estate which leaves at least 10% of its taxable wealth to a charitable cause can now take advantage of a reduced rate of inheritance tax to 36%.

For information on making a gift to RREF in your will, or if you have any questions and would like to speak to someone in confidence about your intentions, please contact:

Tish Gauci | p.e.gauci@henley.ac.uk | +44(0)118 378 4096

For more information, please contact:

Reading Real Estate Foundation

Henley Business School
University of Reading
Whiteknights
Reading
Berkshire
RG6 6UD

RREF-development@henley.ac.uk

Charity Number 1092627

Henley Business School
UNIVERSITY OF READING

RREF
Reading Real Estate Foundation

B34265 11.25