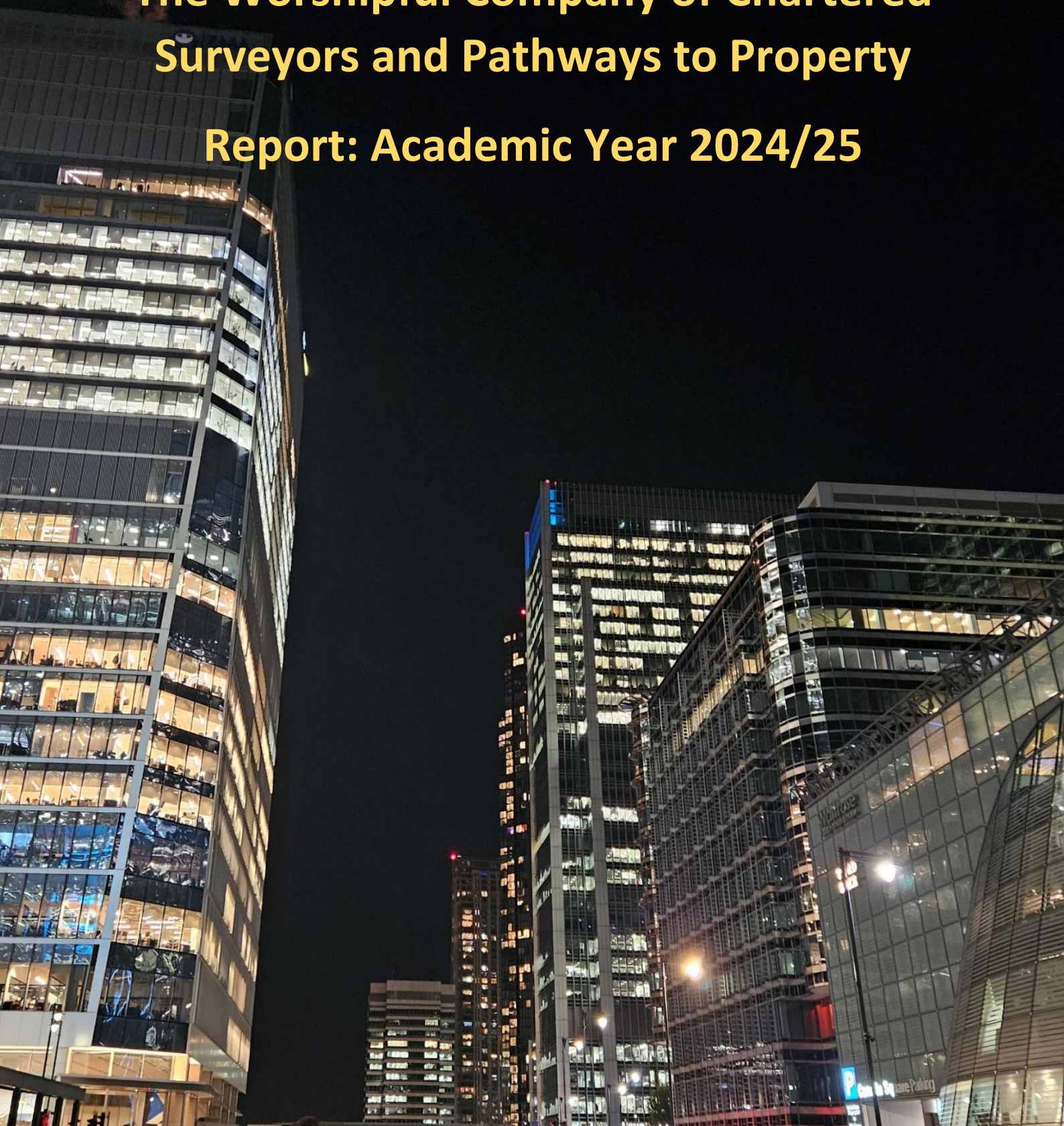


READING REAL ESTATE FOUNDATION

The Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors and Pathways to Property

Report: Academic Year 2024/25



Overview

Reading Real Estate Foundation

Connecting industry and academia for positive social impact

More than 22 years after it was founded in 2002, 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 support and develop new talent, through teaching and research, which has the capacity to inform both policy and practice. We do this by 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.



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 new innovations in teaching and learning.

Pathways to Property

Launched in 2012, the Pathways to Property project aims to widen access to the real estate and planning profession by raising awareness of and aspirations about the vast range of careers available within the sector. Led by the Reading Real Estate Foundation (RREF) at Henley Business School, University of Reading, 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. In addition, the project works with teachers and career advisors to provide them with valuable information about the industry, which can be passed onto their students.

The aims of the project are:

- To raise awareness of and aspirations about the diverse range of careers within the sector amongst talented students from various backgrounds, increasing the link between the industry and its future talent pool.



- To increase the diversity of applications for property related degrees and apprenticeship programmes by promoting a career in the property industry and providing students from less advantaged and non-traditional backgrounds with support into the industry through the Pathways to Property programme.

Since the project began:

- Over 34,250 students, teachers, career advisors and parents have been engaged through the school outreach programme.
- Over 30,000 learners have signed up to complete the Open Online Course, providing them with further insight into a career in property.
- 1,144 Year 12 students have attended the Pathways to Property residential Summer School, and 168 have attended a regional Insight Day.
- Of all the programme attendees, 51% have been female.
- 523 work experience placements have been completed.
- Of those that have completed their A-Levels, 224 have gone on to study or work in property; 22% of all programme attendees.



The Bursaries

In 2020, The Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors and Pathways to Property began their partnership, with the aim of supporting students from more diverse backgrounds – financial and cultural - to enter the property industry. This support is offered in the form of bursaries to support Pathways to Property participants to enter Higher Education. These bursary recipients are also offered further support through the WCCS Education Programme Manager, who keeps in close contact with every student throughout their undergraduate degree. Also provided is an industry mentor, organised by the Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors. With this invaluable financial and mentoring support, these Pathways to Property participants have been given the best chance possible to succeed in their desire to study a property-related degree.

The Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors have offered financial support to 39 Pathways to Property Summer School participants. On the following pages you will find updates from the students on how they have found their first term of the academic year at university. Please find below the financial plan showing the schedule of disbursements to students.



Programme year	2	3	4	5	6	7
Academic year	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Disbursed by WCCS						
Matthew Noble	£10,000	£10,000	Placement	£10,000		
Mohammad Kha	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	-	-
Aaron Lardi-Boakye	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	-	-
Jessica Soares Paim	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	-	-
Diamonique Stewart	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	-	-
David Xavier	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	-	-
Mario Meta	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	-	-
Calvin Gitiba	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	-	-
Luca Taylor	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000		
Tasnia Rahman	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	-	-
Michael Adjei-Senyah	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	-
Noel Dawit	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	-
Iremide Ajayi	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	-
Schaun King	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	-
King Kolade Ogundana	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	Placement	£10,000
Mary Melindji	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	-
Jason Tankum	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	Placement	£10,000
Ellyce Adjei Biney	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	-
Samuel Tewodros	-	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	-
Adeshola Olamide-Daniel	-	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	-
Raihan Chowdhury	-	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Sadia Kabir	-	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Ameera Rizwan	-	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Ayo Fagbesa	-	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Aainea McLean	-	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Mary Adesina	-	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Ezra Paul	-	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Other						
Project Donation	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£20,000	-	-
Total – per year	£20,000	£100,000	£180,000	£290,000	-	-
Previous Students	-	-	-	£310,000	-	-
Total – cumulative	£20,000	£120,000	£300,000	£900,000	-	-

Your Impact

We asked all bursary recipients to reflect on the impact that the funding has had on their studies and how they have found the start of the 2024/25 academic year. Below are their comments.

Calvin Gitiba

Nottingham Trent University – final year Real Estate

I am currently in my final year getting on well, having adjusted to the major change between second and third year with the extra load of work and extra hours of independent study outside of the classroom. New modules have been introduced and have been very enjoyable, particularly Corporate Real Estate. I look to carry on strongly into the second term of third year, focusing on perfecting my dissertation.

Receiving a bursary and being a part of the WCCS has been a transformative experience during my time at university. It has alleviated financial pressures, allowing me to focus on my studies and extracurricular activities without the constant worry of making ends meet. With this support, I've been able to participate in valuable educational opportunities, and engage more deeply with the university community. Beyond the financial relief, the bursary has also given me a sense of recognition and motivation to strive for excellence. It has empowered me to pursue my academic and personal goals with confidence, making my university experience truly enriching and fulfilling.

I am incredibly thankful for this opportunity from the WCCS, which has been a life changer for me and for many others through the brilliant scheme that they run. A massive thank you also to Karen who is always ready to help and support in all ways, and finally to thank my sponsors Clipstone who provide unconditional support, whether I decide to use them or not and have provided opportunities with internship weeks during my first and second years of studying, which have been invaluable.

Mo Kha

University of Cambridge - final year

Land Economy



I've been putting off writing this report (sorry Karen!) as it requires me to accept that it's my final real term at Cambridge before exams start. Each term has gone quicker and better than the previous one and I find myself incredibly busied and fulfilled by my academics, socials and internships and such.

Highlights of my year include the course itself, which offers a different flavour of studies in each year and allows you to study a variety of subjects, drawing on finance, the environment, politics and law. As I'm halfway through my 3rd year, I also get to take on a dissertation which I'm currently in the bowels of. If anyone has any experience or interest in conventional and/or Islamic mortgages, my door is wide open!

I've been able to take on a number of extracurricular projects as well, such as setting up my own Society (Cambridge Ethical Finance). I've found this to be a really cool and fun solution to a gap in the market which also aligned with my personal interests and beliefs. Our next ambitious step is to set up a student-led, ethical investment fund which, as I am continuously reminded, is extremely difficult. However, I hope to not only take this in my stride until I graduate but also have a living project to pass on in Cambridge.

My summer was booked up by an internship at PGIM Real Estate, another WCCS donor, where I learnt an incredible amount. Being able to contribute to live deals was invaluable for my learning and I met a lot of fantastic people there whilst doing so. I've now a newfound interest in self-storage warehouses.

I must also thank my own sponsor, Almacantar, for allowing me to undertake this opportunity, as well as my mentors Brooke and Charlie. I appreciate all the support they have provided me with and continue to provide me with. I'm sure they know by now how much of a difference they've made to my life these past two and a half years.

Aaron Lardi-Boakye

University of Cambridge – final year Land Economy



As always, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible support provided by my sponsor, PGIM, over the past two years and, in advance, for any support you may offer this year.

The WCCS Bursary Programme has been an invaluable source of assistance during my time at university. The support I have received from both the WCCS team, PGIM and my additional mentor Joseph Cramphorn from Savills, has already started shaping my future as I prepare to leave university.

Since my last letter, I have concluded my term as JCR President and taken on a new role as President of CUAOS (Access and Outreach Society). In this capacity, I work to support students who lack access to adequate university admissions guidance and help raise awareness about amazing programmes like this one, which can transform students' experiences at university.

Beyond this, I have found joy and fulfilment in various other pursuits, such as serving as Entertainment Officer for the Union Winter Ball and returning to my role as Technical Director at the ADC Theatre. These opportunities, along with countless lessons learned and skills developed, have made my university experience truly amazing. I can confidently say that without the support of the bursary and the programme as a whole, many of these experiences might not have been possible as my time would have been spent worrying about simply getting by.

Thank you once again for your generosity and belief in my potential. Your support continues to inspire me, and I am profoundly grateful for the opportunities it has provided.

Warm regards,

Aaron

Mario Meta

University of Kingston – final year Quantity Surveying



For me the first term of third year went really well. However, that is easy to say when it's completed and sorted out! Early on, I was under a lot of pressure and found the work challenging. I learnt about the importance of deadlines and managing my time. We had to find information and make some legislation, write a 7000-word submission and give a presentation. I was quite nervous to present however, I did not let it get to me, and I believe I performed really well. I responded well to the questions and was honest when I was unsure of an answer.

I sent my interim report to my dissertation supervisor, and she was impressed and gave me constructive feedback. I haven't received the grades yet, but I'm in high hopes.

I also spent some weeks on work experience this year, at Quantem and Colliers. Both of these were really interesting and showed me how much I would like to pursue this career. I would like to thank them for the time they gave me.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Clearbell for being my sponsors for the duration of my degree, especially to Tina Paul for her HR guidance and advice. Thank you too, to the WCCS bursary and the doors that it has opened for me.

It is much very appreciated as it has really made a difference to my life. I can really see here at university how other students really struggle financially, and it really affects their time and work.

Many thanks

Mario

Matthew Noble

Loughborough University – Commercial Management & Quantity Surveying – final year



I'm back at university for my 3rd and final year. Last year, I was on an industrial placement working as a commercial management trainee at Wates Residential. The skills and experience I gained from my placement have been incredibly useful in my *construction law and contract* and *cost planning and management* modules. I've been able to help my peers, who were not on placement, better understand construction processes and site logistics using my time on site as a reference. I've especially enjoyed some of my cost planning coursework where I have been able to use all the Excel formulas and shortcuts I learnt last year.

The workload on my course is very intense and rent within Loughborough is much higher than it was during my first and second year. The bursary has been an immense help in this regard, alleviating any financial stress. It has meant I have not had to get a part time job (something that many of my peers have done) meaning I can give my studies the focus they require, without sacrificing my social life.

Following my placement, I received glowing feedback from Wates Residential, and I am delighted to have received an offer to return to the company next September to begin my career with them. Without the bursary, the support and the many work experience opportunities that have been facilitated for me, I would not be in the position I am in today.

Therefore, I would like to give my thanks to my mentor Simon Burgess, my sponsor company Ocorian, Karen Martin of the WCCS and all others involved in the scheme, for your support.

Tasnia Rahman

University of Greenwich – final year

Quantity Surveying



I study quantity surveying at the University of Greenwich and I enjoy the range of exposure I receive to varying aspects of the built environment. I have learnt a lot across the past two years and am continuing to learn in ground laws, economics and ethics.

Balancing both third year university coursework and having the stress of financial pressures is completely eradicated due to the generous funding I receive from the WCCS. It helps me relax more and focus my time on ensuring that I can be more intentional and determined in my studies. The yearly annual event also helps to connect me and everyone else with bright minded individuals and industry mentors to help us grow in our careers.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my thanks to Karen who has been there through last year when I experienced a sudden family death, and she assured me that I was not alone and I will forever be grateful for that. She has ensured that I have all information ranging from grad schemes to mentoring.

As this is my last year, I would like to thank The Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors for the privilege of being in this bursary programme and for giving me a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Jessica Soares-Paim

University of Cambridge – final year

Land Economy



Time really does fly by when you are having fun. To think this is the last annual report I will write for you guys is difficult to fathom. As always, I begin with the biggest thanks to the WCCS organisation and my sponsors - AEW Capital Management for believing in my potential and inspiring me to work harder and dream bigger!

My primary aim this year has been to say “yes” to more things, making it the most eventful one so far.

Highlights include attending the wonderful WIRE (Women in Real Estate) x Lazard event, Google Clouds Start-up Hub Launch, and mingling with Prop-tech enthusiasts at the Johnian Entrepreneurship Club. I have also started training taekwondo, only to realise how much sooner I should have started, given how much I love it! I have been able to do so much with your support, so I'll add another thank you here :)

I also want to report that I enjoyed a really successful summer internship at BNP Paribas and they have offered me a graduate role which I am keen to start. Thanks go to them for supporting and encouraging my development!

This year I am taking Planning, Countryside Management, Landlaw & Tenant Law and Environmental Economics, alongside my dissertation. I foresee many evenings spent in the library in attempts to romanticise my studies haha!

Forever grateful for your support, and I hope to someday pay it forward :)

Jessica Alexandra Soares Paim

Diamonique Stewart

University of Westminster – final year

Real Estate



As I come to the end of my three-year course, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible support I've received. The financial assistance and invaluable mentorship from WCCS and Cadogan have played a pivotal role in my academic and personal growth, allowing me to focus on my studies and future aspirations. Special thanks go to Russell Townsend and Lucy Lilley for encouraging and supporting me. This support has not only lightened my financial burden but also helped me build confidence and clarity about my career path.

I'm proud to share that I completed a summer placement with LocatED, an experience that inspired me to pursue a career in housing—a field I am now truly passionate about.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunities this bursary has created for me, and I look forward to using what I've learned to make a meaningful contribution in the housing sector. Thank you for believing in me and for empowering my success.

Luca Taylor

University of Reading – final year

Real Estate & Planning



As a student recently beginning my final year of undergraduate studies, 2024 has become a pivotal part of my career development.

Throughout my second year at university, I became more aware of the parallels between studying Real Estate & Planning as a degree, compared to its form in industry. This has been instrumental in understanding the degree's content, and realising how it relates to the industry.

Moreover, work placements and internships have further boosted my overall development. Placements at the beginning and end of second year in Tritax, Gerald Eve, and Montagu Evans all have contributed to career experience. This allows me to reflect on these experiences and make more informed decisions about future career aspirations.

The beginning of my final year has proved to be quite challenging; in balancing both academic work and graduate applications. However, remaining optimistic in the face of setbacks stands as an important attribute to carry onwards into the rest of my final year and beyond.

Last but not least, I would like to extend my thanks once again to the WCCS, Pathways to Property, and my sponsor Tritax for the support given to ease the financial burden of studying at a university level for the past 3 years. This has been life changing.

David Xavier

Birmingham City University – final year Real Estate



I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my sponsors Rainier Developments LTD. The support I have received has had such a meaningful impact on my academic journey, significantly relieving the financial pressures of the year.

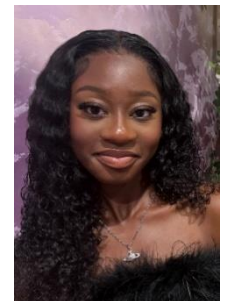
This bursary has been pivotal in covering essential expenses, enabling me to focus entirely on my studies. The reduced financial burden has allowed me to approach my work more efficiently and with greater determination, knowing I have the resources to succeed.

In addition, I am incredibly thankful for the mentorship and practical support I have received from Rainier Developments. This mentorship, paired with the financial assistance, has given me a strong foundation to excel in both my academic and professional endeavours.

Once again, I sincerely thank you for investing in my future. This support has made a significant difference, and I am committed to making the most of this opportunity.

Ellyce Adjei Biney

Birmingham City University – second year Real Estate



Now in my second year of university, receiving the bursary every term continues to be very helpful. I've been able to focus on my assignments without worrying about finances for shopping or covering my rent.

By the end of first year, my mentor helped me with aspects of a module I was struggling on, so that I could understand it better. On top of this WCCS has also been so helpful as I look for a placement year in connection with my course. They've given careers advisors and set me up with an additional mentor so that I can make the most out of employability advice, and they have helped me to improve my CV to a standard that is attractive to real estate companies.

Being sponsored by UK Land and WCCS has also given me good connections with another company, Stiles Harold Williams (SHW), which has allowed me to undertake more work experience.

I would like to give a big thanks to Diane Martin from the livery, Brooke Collins from Almacantar, Hele Griffiths from RX London and WCCS Programme Manager, Karen Martin for all the support and advice you have given me thus far.

Iremide Ajayi

Nottingham Trent University – second year Property Finance & Investment



I am a 19-year-old student currently studying Property Finance and Investment at Nottingham Trent University, and I am now in my second year.

During the first term, I completed one exam in Real Estate Economics and achieved a High First, which I am proud of. Settling into my second year has been much smoother compared to my first year, as I have established friendships, built a strong rapport with my lecturers, and developed a deeper understanding of the fundamentals of the property industry.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to WCCS for providing me with the incredible sponsorship of Trilogy Real Estate. Their support has been invaluable, as they are actively helping me secure a placement and summer internships. Moreover, the mentorship and advice they provide, both academically and for my career, have been pivotal in helping me navigate university life and shape my future aspirations in the property sector.

Thanks to Karen and the connections facilitated by WCCS, I was able to secure a one-week placement with Colliers Valuation team, where I gained valuable knowledge about property valuation. I am also looking forward to a 10-day work experience opportunity with Savills in April, which I am confident will further broaden my skills and industry insights.

Being part of the WCCS bursary programme has enabled me to focus on my studies and achieve my best grades while giving me great opportunities to pursue my passion for real estate. The mentorship provided by the programme ensures that I am not only supported academically but also well-prepared for a successful career in the industry.

I would like to extend my massive thanks to everyone at WCCS and Trilogy Real Estate for their continued support and encouragement.

Sincerely,

Iremide Ajayi (Remi)

Noel Dawit

University of Cambridge – second year Land Economy



The first term of my second year of university has been nothing short of dynamic! Adjusting to an additional paper while being newly elected as JCR President of my college has filled the term with academic challenges and social buzz.

Academically, I've found my courses intellectually stimulating, particularly enjoying the urban economics side. Balancing my academic responsibilities with my leadership role has pushed me to refine my time-management and organisational skills.

As JCR President, I've had the opportunity to lead a diverse team and work closely with college administration. A current highlight is the early talks of negotiating the rent changes of the college. I am excited to see where this goes.

The bursary has played a pivotal role in allowing me to fully immerse myself at the university. It has enabled me to attend events such as formal dinners, purchase essential books, and cover basic necessities such as utilities and rent. Without this support, balancing academic and extracurricular commitments would have been far more challenging.

I am deeply grateful to my sponsors - Silvertown, my mentor – Paddy Allen, and the WCCS for their continuous support. Their guidance and encouragement have been pivotal in my development, and I look forward to making the most of the opportunities ahead. Thank you for believing in my potential and helping me navigate this exciting journey.

Many thanks, Noel Dawit

Schaun King

University of Reading – second year Real Estate with Urban Planning & Development



Thank you to my sponsor, The Portman Estate and WCCS, for continuing to provide invaluable support, not only financially but through broader opportunities. This summer, I had the privilege of undertaking several placements with The Portman Estate, The Crown Estate, and Telereal Trillium. Each placement enriched my practical skills and commercial awareness whilst exposing me to the diversity of the real estate industry. From working with landed estates to more investment-focused firms, I have gained insights that have left me excited about the potential areas I could specialise in as I develop my career.

Second year has been nothing short of exhilarating. Academically, I have particularly enjoyed learning about the four-quadrant model and understanding how real estate markets theoretically react to economic events. This knowledge has served as a strong foundation for structural analysis, helping me appreciate the interplay between theory and real-world application.

Outside of my studies, I have taken on an external role as an Equity Research Trainee with BLK Capital Management. This involves completing their education program to transition into an analyst role, where I will contribute to stock proposals and pitches. This opportunity has further broadened my skill set and helped me appreciate the connections between real estate and the wider financial markets.

Thank you again for your unwavering support and engagement. The effort and care you dedicate to supporting students like me is invaluable, and I look forward to continuing to make the most of these opportunities.

Mary Melindji

University of Reading – second year

Quantity Surveying



Being a second-year Quantity Surveying student at the University of Reading and a WCCS bursary candidate, sponsored by Colliers, has been a life-changing experience for me. The financial support has eased university pressures and opened incredible opportunities, including internships with Hollis, Colliers, and Savills, which have shaped my career and deepened my passion for quantity surveying.

I'm excited to continue this journey with a summer internship at Rider Levett Bucknall (RLB) and am deeply grateful for the incredible network I've built. The unwavering support of Karen Martin, along with Rob Kendall from Colliers, Vicki Palmer from Hollis, and Ema Saunders from Savills, has been invaluable in fuelling my confidence and ambition.

As a Pathways to Property ambassador, I've found great fulfilment in working with Tom and Helen to help the next generation build confidence, develop skills, and unlock their potential in the property sector. It's been a rewarding way to give back and inspire future leaders.

King Ogundana

University of Manchester – second year

Planning & Real Estate



Hi, my name is King and I am a second year Planning and Real Estate student at the University of Manchester.

Compared to my first year, this academic year has proven to be more dynamic, with lectures being more focused on specialised topics in planning and real estate.

Although, I liked my “policy for cities and regions” and “plan making and development process” modules, my favourite one this semester is data analytics for real estate.

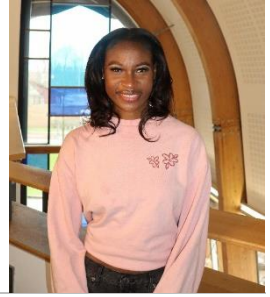
I am looking forward to the valuations and sustainability modules I will take during the second semester.

I would like to thank Karen for the support she has offered since my first year in uni, and for connecting me to mentorship and work experience opportunities. Last but not least, I would like to thank M7 for sponsoring my bursary and for mentoring me since last year.

Kindly, King

Adeshola Olamide-Daniel

University of Reading – second year Real Estate with Planning & Development



My penultimate year studying at Reading has been going amazingly so far, as I have been able to adapt better to the university than I did in my first year. It has also allowed me to continue expanding my knowledge in the modules related to real estate.

During the summer, I had the opportunity to intern at GCW Property Consultancy in their office based in London. This experience allowed me to apply skills learnt from my modules and apply them to real-life working environments.

I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to my sponsor, Global Mutual, as the bursary has allowed me to have financial independence during my studies and has been helpful when needing to pay for rent and buy materials and resources for the university. Additionally, it has brought a relief of pressure compared to the first year of university on my finances.

I would also like to extend my thanks to Mark Carrington, my mentor, and his team for the constant support and advice they have given me during my studies while focusing on ways to improve my current skills.

I'm looking forward to what the rest of the year holds and the challenges that I will be faced with to help me thrive.

Michael Senyah

University of Loughborough – second year Quantity Surveying



I've settled well into my second year of Quantity Surveying at Loughborough University. It's been a fantastic start, and I feel much more confident and focused compared to my first year. The routines, challenges, and opportunities that come with this stage of my course have been exciting, and I'm really enjoying diving deeper into the subject.

One of the highlights has been the practical aspects of the course and how they tie into real-world applications. The workshops and mentoring provided by the WCCS bursary team have been incredibly helpful in bridging the gap between theory and practice. They've given me a clearer idea of what to expect in the industry and have definitely boosted my skills and confidence. This extra support by the mentors provided by the Chartered Surveyors Company has made my second year feel more manageable and productive, and I'm learning so much both inside and outside the lecture hall.

Settling into university life has also been smoother this year. I feel more at home at Loughborough, and with the foundations I built in my first year, I've been able to focus more on making the most of my time here. From coursework to extracurricular activities, I'm making strides that I'm really proud of.

Thank you again for the support you've provided. While the bursary has been a massive help, it's the wider opportunities and guidance that have truly enhanced my experience and helped me get off to such a great start this year. I would like to thank Simon Burgess and Ocorian for their sponsorship and interest in me. I'm excited for what's to come and remain determined to keep making the most of this opportunity.

Kind Regards, Michael

Jason Tankum

Nottingham Trent University – second year Property Finance & Investment



1st year of uni was great, I passed with a 2:1 and I aim to bring that up to a 1st. I'm currently in 2nd year university and it has been more focused on finance and investment making it more interesting. I've enjoyed learning about valuations, yields and economics impacting real estate markets.

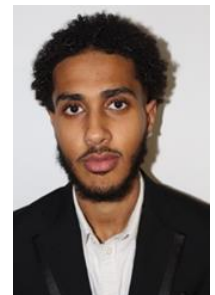
My interest in what I'm learning about alongside the support I'm getting from my sponsors DTRE, Karen and the rest of the WCCS team is helping me to consistently achieve good grades which I'm very grateful for.

A downside of uni this year has been group tasks. However, from this I learnt to always strive for excellence, even when your peers are putting in minimal effort and to find strategies to motivate them to be more engaged.

Currently I'm applying to placements and summer internships, hopefully I can be successful and get some real world experience that'll help me once I've graduated.

Samuel Tewodros

University of Cambridge – second year Land Economy



Hi there,

I'm currently in my second year at the University of Cambridge, and wow, what a ride it's been! Between juggling lectures, surprise deadlines, and darting back and forth between cities for internship interviews, it's been *INTENSE*. But honestly? I've loved every minute of it.

The WCCS bursary has been an absolute lifesaver. Without it, there's no way I could have afforded all those train tickets to London for interviews—being able to book peak-time trains instead of waiting hours for off-peak has been a game-changer. It even helped me pay for a £100 technical interview prep course, which was crucial for my revision.

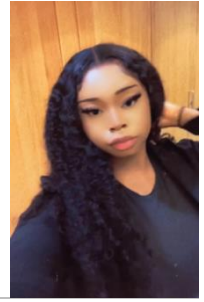
I am grateful to Global Holdings for their sponsorship and industry support.

Thanks to all this support, it's really paid off (literally and figuratively). I'm thrilled to share that I'll be starting a summer internship in Industrial Investment Banking. Can't wait for those legendary 10pm shifts! Honestly, I'm so grateful to the organisation for making it all possible—thank you for helping me take steps toward my dream career.

Mary Adesina

University College London – first year

Urban Planning & Real Estate



Hello, my name is Mary Adesina. I'm currently in my first year at University College London (UCL) studying Urban Planning and Real Estate.

My first term at UCL has been amazing. So far, I've had the chance to meet many people who come from different parts of the world and learn new cultures. This has helped me to develop my confidence and communication skills.

I have really enjoyed my first term modules and had the chance to learn new skills such as filmmaking with a group and photoshop. I also got to learn more about the history of planning and how planning systems work and I'm excited to dive more into the real estate module in the second term.

stress which would have deterred me away from even starting university. Now I can focus on my studies without stress of having to pick up extra jobs, this has helped to minimise my anxiety about my future. I would also like to thank my mentor Katherine Stephens for her support.

Also, a huge thank you to Karen Martin for her warm check-ups, giving me this opportunity and offering a safe space if we have any worries.

Raihan Chowdhury

University of Reading – first year

Real Estate & Finance

My first year has been going well. Reading has got a lovely campus, the student body is diverse, with people from all over the world, and the professors have a way with words, making the lectures very engaging.

Everything about the university is amazing and I could not be more grateful for this opportunity with the WCCS, and I thank Helical for the early support, giving a nice insight to their business.

My interest in law has grown significantly thanks to the law module at Reading, which has deepened my understanding of how the property industry operates. I would like to say a huge thank you to my sponsors Grainger Plc, without them this would not have been possible. The bursary has helped to alleviate financial

It has also highlighted how the law carefully balances the rights of buyers and sellers, making the subject both insightful and engaging.

The Data Analysis module I've been studying has given me useful skills that I think will help in the future when looking up property data. It's shown me how to use the Land Registry and understand what it's used for.

This RICS-accredited degree positions me perfectly for a career in the property industry, where I am aiming to become a chartered surveyor.

Ayo Fagbesa

Aston University – first year

Construction Project Management



As I reflect on my first semester at university, I can confidently say that I have settled in well and truly found my feet.

My course has been particularly enjoyable, challenging me intellectually while also allowing me to explore my interests in depth. The support from my peers and the faculty has been fantastic, creating an environment where I feel encouraged to thrive.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Hollis Global and especially Vicki Palmer for their generous sponsorship and support during this transition.

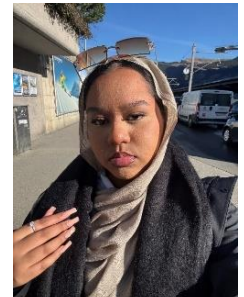
Their guidance and assistance have made a significant difference, helping me navigate the challenges of starting university life. With their help, I have been able to focus on my studies and embrace all the opportunities that come my way.

Overall, this semester has been a fantastic start to my university journey, and I am excited for what lies ahead as I continue to grow both academically and personally.

Sadia Kabir

University College London – first year

Urban Planning & Real Estate



As a student at University College London, pursuing Urban Planning and Real Estate, I have had a fantastic start to my first year. My coursework and assignments have been both challenging and inspiring, with modules such as Planning History and Thought, which provides a foundation for understanding the evolution of urban planning, and Introducing Planning Systems, which explores the processes shaping cities today. An exciting aspect has been the Making Cities project, a creative exploration of urban issues through filmmaking. This project has deepened my understanding of modern challenges such as gentrification and highlighted the importance of creating community driven solutions.

University life has been an enriching experience, offering me the opportunity to embrace independence and adapt to a fast-paced learning environment. Meeting people from all walks of life and diverse

backgrounds has broadened my perspective and enhanced my understanding of different cultures.

I am profoundly grateful to my sponsors, James Andrew and First Investments, my mentors, and the WCCS for their unwavering and committed support. Your generosity has been life-changing, especially in covering my daily travel costs to central London. This has eased the financial burden on my family, as neither of my parents are currently working. Thanks to your assistance, I have been able to fully focus on my studies and immerse myself in university life. Your support has opened doors I never imagined possible, and I am deeply thankful for this opportunity.

Looking ahead, I am eager to continue growing academically and personally and look forward to what the future holds.

Aainea McLean

University of Reading – first year

Real Estate & Finance



Being a first-year real estate student at the University of Reading has been absolutely amazing so far. The academic and social life have been really impactful within the space of a term.

I was introduced to the bursary programme in Year 12 when I completed Pathways to Property Summer School at Reading. It intrigued me to study at Reading in particular, as it comes with many benefits. Hearing the presentation about the bursary gave me the confidence to apply to it. Being on the WCCS bursary has benefitted me a lot as I receive mentoring sessions, check-in sessions and it has taught me how to use my finances effectively. It has also helped me receive weekly tutoring sessions for one of my modules and this has been extremely helpful for me over the past couple of weeks.

Academically, it has been so interesting and completely different to A-Levels. It's different because the learning is much more independent, there are fewer exams and assignments to complete; this allows me to have time to myself and take up new hobbies. In semester 1, we learned about data analysis, economics and property law. Even though it has been challenging, it has been very rewarding for many reasons. One reason is because of the amount of support I have received from my academic tutors; my sponsors, Fisher German and their mentor, Sam Peters; Karen and many others who have given me advice about my courses and university life in general.

The social life at Reading has been so good because I have an amazing friendship group, and I have made friends with many people on my course. This has been beneficial because we help each other if we do not understand a lecture and it's nice knowing that there are many people in a similar position as you. As well as this, Reading is very diverse so it has enabled me to make friends who are similar to me, and I have never felt lonely as I know I can turn to my friends for support.

Overall, my first semester at the University of Reading has been delightful because it's so different from what I am used to, and it has allowed me to go outside of my comfort zone. Also, learning Real Estate at Reading has been challenging but extremely interesting and I am so excited to see what we learn in the second semester, and I can't wait to see how everything turns out!

Kind regards,

Aainea

Ezra Paul

University of Reading – first year

Real Estate & Finance



I've found settling into my course a positive experience. I've managed to stay organised and use my time effectively, ensuring I meet assignment deadlines while maintaining quality in my work.

What I enjoy most about university is the freedom it offers. I can participate in extracurricular activities such as the Entrepreneurship Society and Reading University Jazz Music Society, travel to London for creative and professional events, and continue pursuing my hobbies. The reduced in-person learning compared to sixth form has made balancing academics and personal interests much easier.

Making new friends and building connections has also been straightforward. Events such as the RREF evening lecture and Entrepreneurship Society gatherings have provided fantastic opportunities for networking and meeting like-minded people.

I'd like to thank my sponsors – RICS, my mentors, and the WCCS for their invaluable support. Special thanks to Sarah Noble for connecting me with professionals and helping me secure three mentors who guide me in areas such as academics and industry insights. I'm also grateful to James Hicks for recommending real estate organisations to join and books to enhance my commercial awareness.

A heartfelt thanks to Karen Martin, who guided me through the bursary application process. Karen was my first connection at the Pathways to Property residential in Year 12, which inspired me to pursue real estate at the University of Reading.

With their support, I'm confident in my journey and look forward to securing a spring insight week in business/finance and real estate.

Ameera Rizwan

University of Westminster – first year

Real Estate



My first year at university studying Real Estate has been an incredible journey so far. The first two weeks felt like a whirlwind—completely new and unlike anything I’d experienced before. Adjusting to the pace of university life, understanding the structure of modules, and meeting classmates were challenges I hadn’t anticipated. However, as the days progressed, I found myself settling in. Getting to know my peers and engaging deeply with each module, each with its own distinct focus, made the experience truly unique.

I am immensely grateful to my sponsors, Bridges Fund Management, Barbara, and Fabi, whose mentorship during semester one has been invaluable. Their guidance and advice have helped me navigate the challenges of my course and opened doors to incredible opportunities like shadowing, work experience, and insight days, which is set to take place during the Christmas break.

A special thanks to P2P and the WCCS, especially Karen, who has been a pillar of support and someone I can rely on for anything.

The bursary has been transformative, easing financial pressures and allowing me to focus fully on my studies. It has provided me with the freedom to immerse myself in university life and excel in my coursework. I’m truly thankful for this support system as I continue this exciting journey.



Thank you

The Reading Real Estate Foundation would like to express its gratitude to the Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors for its ongoing support of the Pathways to Property programme.

Supporting another nine students in 2024/25 in the form of bursaries and mentoring, along with your project donation, brings about significant positive change and opportunities for the young people we work with. The testimonials demonstrate how the recipients of your support have made the most of the opportunity you have provided.

2024 was a really successful year for the Pathways to Property programme. We saw significant growth in the number of young people attending our events, with 141 coming to the summer school, and another 116 attending one of our Insight Days. 24% of our 2023 cohort have gone on to study or work within the property sector. This would not be possible without the support of WCCS, and we look forward to working with you to build on this success in the future.

Thank you on behalf of all pathways participants past, current and future.



Kerry Johnston

Director of Engagement, Employability & Entrepreneurship
Executive Director, Reading Real Estate Foundation (RREF)
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