

Exploiting its location

The Thames Valley with the city of Reading at its centre, is one of the most entrepreneurial regions in the world. Reading is the leading entrepreneurial city in the UK according to the PwC-Demos *Good Growth for Cities Report 2016*. The *Financial Times* recently ranked Reading as the third most entrepreneurial city in the UK and tenth in Europe. HCfE is a key player in this vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Engaging with businesses in the Thames Valley

Since its origin HCfE has built close connections with the local Thames Valley SME business community working with likes of Business United www.bizutd.com, a network of business owners leading companies of between £1m and £100m in revenues to connect and help build wealth creating entrepreneurial business.

In collaboration with key local partners such as the Thames Valley Berkshire Business Growth Hub, Thames Valley Local Economic Partnership, Chambers of Commerce, Institute of Directors among others) HCfE hosts regular sponsored SME targeted events including speakers' panels, attended by many hundreds of SMEs, sharing best strategies for business growth, sales and marketing, financing, recruitment and development of staff.

Building on the large existing provision for SMEs on-campus in the Science & Technology and Enterprise Centres, the University is opening the new Thames Valley Science Park in autumn 2017. The first building to be constructed will provide incubation space for use by students and graduates who have launched businesses.