



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SERIES

Allison English

Deputy CEO, Leesman

Please provide a short intro about your career path. What brought you to London?

My background is in graphic design, and I found my way into CRE by happenstance while looking for a career change where I could make a real impact on people's lives. Five years ago I happily found Leesman, where we measure and benchmark employee workplace experience, assessing what employees do in their roles and how well their work environments support them. [Our latest research](#) looks at the last 10 years of our data and reveals which changes were spurred on by the pandemic and which trends were in play long before.

What has been a highlight of your career so far? Or what has been your biggest career challenge so far and how have you overcome it?

A decade ago, I had the opportunity to move from the US to Asia, living and working in Hong Kong and then Singapore. I had more adventures than I could ever recount, and my time there was also incredible from a career growth standpoint. I managed a team spread across three continents, which brought logistical and cultural challenges alongside language barriers and the everyday challenges our work presented. Face-to-face time with each team member set a great foundation for building empathy and finding things in common outside of work, making our working relationships naturally easier to navigate. Time has passed and a lot around work has changed, but I find the same is true today.

What brought you to CREW UK?

I love CREW's mission. I am passionate about promoting diversity and supporting women, particularly after having worked in industries and for organisations where there was (and still is) a distinct lack of diversity. Our workforce and leadership should reflect the society we live in. CREW's objectives align with mine, so joining to add whatever I can to further the mission was a no-brainer.

Plan B - if you were not in real estate, what would you be involved in now?

The most interesting components of work for me are the impact I can make, the opportunity for personal and professional growth, and the ability to work with amazing like-minded people for a cause I believe in. This combination exists across sectors, so as long as I could achieve all three, I'd be fulfilled.

What are your interests/passions outside of work?

I returned from maternity leave no. 2 in January, so my two small children take up the vast majority of my time. My husband and I spend lots of time with them being active and exploring the outdoors, building forts out of pillows and towers out of Legos, and seeing who can make each other laugh the most!

I also am an active member of the Zonta Club of London, which is part of Zonta International, an international service organization whose mission is to build a better world for women and girls.

Is there a book or a podcast that you have found insightful and would like to share with the community?

Willful Blindness by Margaret Heffernan is a fascinating read that exposes how vulnerable each of us is to deliberately not seeing what is right in front of our eyes.

I love the art of storytelling, so The Moth and This American Life are my go-to podcasts for consistently incredible stories that enable me to see life from someone else's viewpoint.

Did you like what you've read, and now keen to get involved in CREW UK?

Visit <https://crewuk.org/why-join/benefits-qualifications> to explore membership and benefits