



University of
Reading



THINKING ABOUT UNIVERSITY?

ADVICE FOR UNDER 16s



CONTENTS

Get ahead	4
More than a degree	6
What to study	8
See the world	10
Placements	12
Home from home	14
Campus life	16
Run by you – for you	18
All sports	20
Help is always at hand	22
Doing research	24
Finance	26
Making it work	28
What now?	30
Jargon buster	31

GET AHEAD



It might seem that going to university is just adding more time in school when you're finished, but studying for a degree can give you lots more options in the future, as well as being a fun and worthwhile experience in itself!

Some jobs need a degree

If you want to be a barrister, or work in healthcare, for example, you'll need to study a specific subject at university. The same applies for architects, or teachers.

You will be more likely to get a job

- Employment rate of non-graduates (people without a degree): **71.6%**
- Employment rate of graduates (people with a degree): **87.7%**

(Source: Graduate labour market statistics: 2018, Department for Education)

Study your favourite subject

Imagine if you only had to go to your favourite classes at school? At university you choose one (or two) subject(s) to study in great detail. In some courses you can even choose topics within that subject (we call them 'modules') so you're learning more about the subject you are interested in.

See p8 for more on degree subjects at the University of Reading.

Graduates earn more

- **£24,000** The average salary for non-graduates in the UK
- **£34,000** The average salary for graduates in the UK

(Source: Graduate labour market statistics: 2018, Department for Education)

See p6 to find out how the University of Reading can help you be more successful.

University is a great experience

University isn't just about what you can do afterwards. While you are at university, you will make new friends, you might travel to new parts of the world, and you can try new hobbies and have new experiences you wouldn't have the chance to elsewhere.

You can learn more about all these opportunities in this booklet.

MORE THAN A DEGREE

If you come to the University of Reading you won't just get a really worthwhile qualification, you'll also have a variety of different experiences and will develop skills that will help you for life!

Learn a language

Whatever subject you study, enhance your career prospects by learning a language. We can teach you any of nine foreign languages – Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Italian, Japanese, Modern Greek, Russian and Spanish, as well as British Sign Language. You can start from beginner's level or continue learning a language you already know.

Find out more: reading.ac.uk/global

Gain experience

Every course at the University of Reading offers the chance to gain experience on a work placement. This could be a whole year out from your studies or a shorter experience during the holidays. Our Careers Team can help you find and apply for positions, and you can also get part time jobs while studying.

Learn business skills

You can take modules in business at the Henley Centre for Entrepreneurship no matter what subject you're studying at the University.

Learn how to get a job

We have a dedicated Careers Team whose job it is to help you develop the skills you need to apply for and get the job you want. We'll teach you how to write a CV, how to write an amazing job application, and how to do well in job interviews.

Become a leader

If you get involved in the student life at university, you can learn important skills like management, teamwork, budgeting and a number of useful workplace skills. See p18 to find out about extracurricular activities.

There are over 35,000 degree courses available in the UK – that's a lot to choose from! At the University of Reading you might want to look at:

WHAT TO STUDY

The environment

- Physical geography
- Human geography
- International development
- Environmental science
- Environmental management
- Ecology and wildlife conservation
- Meteorology

Food and farming

- Agriculture
- Food science

Biology

- Biological sciences
- Biochemistry
- Microbiology
- Zoology or animal science

Healthcare

- Biomedical engineering
- Biomedical sciences
- Pharmacy
- Psychology
- Speech and language therapy

Chemistry

Computer science

Mathematics

The built environment

- Architecture
- Building surveying
- Quantity surveying
- Construction
- Real estate

Art and design

- Art
- Film and theatre
- Graphic communication

Marketing

Business

- Accounting
- Business
- Management
- Finance
- Entrepreneurship

Law

Politics and economics

- Politics
- International relations
- Economics

The past

- History or ancient history
- Archaeology
- Classics
- Anthropology
- Museum studies

Philosophy

Education

English

- English language and applied linguistics
- English literature

Modern languages

- French
- German
- Spanish
- Italian

Joint degrees

- Can't choose one? We also offer courses where you can take two (or more!) related subjects at the same time. We call these **joint degrees**.



SEE THE WORLD

Study abroad

You may be able to apply to study at a partner institution in another country as part of your degree. You'll learn about your subject and at the same time live in a different country, gain new experiences and have fun! You could spend between three months and one academic year abroad, or even attend a summer school.

Studying abroad is not as expensive as you might think:

- You do not pay additional fees to the partner institution
- If you are abroad for a full year, you may be entitled to reduced fees
- The University offers a range of bursaries and funds to help you
- You might also be entitled to government loans (see p26)

Find out more: reading.ac.uk/go-places

Work abroad

Some degrees offer you the chance to spend a full year abroad working as a placement option, or you could work in a different country during a summer placement. See p12 for details about placements.

Play abroad

Lots of student societies organise trips and excursions abroad. You will probably have to help to pay for them, but they are a fantastic opportunity to travel with friends. You might go skiing in the Alps, surfing in Morocco, or take part in the Model United Nations in Belgium.

Field trips

Some degrees also include trips abroad as part of the course. Maybe you'll study geography in Cyprus, or biology in the Galapagos. Look at all the courses you're interested in to see if they offer fieldwork.

Every course at the University of Reading includes the chance to gain work experience on a professional placement. This could be for short periods during vacations, but for some courses there is the option to spend a year doing a Professional Placement Year. This means you can combine hands-on experience with your learning and find out more about your career and industry.

PLACEMENTS

- Gain new skills
- Develop confidence and self-awareness
- Work in and learn about a profession or sector
- Explore your career options and learn more about what you enjoy

Find out more: [reading.ac.uk/professional-placement-year](https://www.reading.ac.uk/professional-placement-year)



HOME FROM HOME

Moving away from home for the first time can be scary, but the University is here to make it as easy as possible.

Halls of residence

Many students live in university-owned accommodation in their first year. If you satisfy certain requirements and apply in time, you are guaranteed accommodation at the University of Reading for your first year. There are a lot of different choices with halls: you might be living in a shared townhouse, or have a room on a long corridor. You can choose to cook for yourself or have your meals prepared for you. You might even have an en-suite bathroom! Either way, all bills are included in the rent, and you know you'll have support from wardens and other students if you need it.

Private housing

If you don't live in university accommodation, you have the option of moving into a privately owned house or flat, usually sharing with other students that you meet in your first year. You will have a little more responsibility, and will need to sort out your own bills (and housework!) but the University will still be there if you need help or advice.

Live at home

It is not compulsory to live at university! If you live in or near Reading now, maybe you'll want to stay where you are and come to the University during the day. You can still get involved in student life, and have all the benefits of being a student, without leaving home.

CAMPUS LIFE

The ground a university is built on is its campus. At the University of Reading we have two main campuses in Reading, and the one you'll spend most time on depends on the course you study.

Whiteknights

Our Whiteknights campus is our biggest campus. It consists of 130 hectares of parkland, and has won the Green Flag Award for green spaces for eight years running! The environment includes a meadow, a lake, a botanical garden and lots of sports pitches. Most students will find they spend most of their time on Whiteknights campus. It's where lectures, seminars, sports activities, clubs, societies, and socialising all take place. The Students' Union (see p18) includes shops and social spaces - even a hairdresser's! The majority of student halls of residence are on Whiteknights, as are the library and the University administration and student support services. You can spend a lot of your student life never having to leave campus grounds.

London Road

If you study education or architecture you could be studying a lot on our London Road campus. This is where the University of Reading started life; as an extension of Oxford University in the 19th century. It's a smaller campus, but still has places to study, eat, and grass to sit outside when it's sunny!

RUN BY YOU – FOR YOU

Reading University Students' Union (RUSU) is run by students, and while you're here, you're automatically a member. RUSU is led by elected student officers who work with the University to represent the student voice on important issues. RUSU provides advice, support, and much of the social life of students on campus, including more than 100 student societies.

Academic societies

No matter what course you take, there is bound to be a student society offering academic support and social opportunities for your school or department. Social events give you a chance to get to know people on your course, and academic support can help you with your studies. There may also be the chance to go on trips and events related to your area of study.

Music

The Reading University Music Society supports a number of student-led ensembles, including jazz, string, flute, and a choir. There are also societies for student bands, a harmony choir and singer songwriters, as well as societies for fans of drum and bass, rock and metal, and electronic music.

Media

RUSU runs three different media channels: The Spark newspaper, radio station Junction 11 and online TV station RU:ON are all student channels and can give valuable experience if you're hoping for a media career after graduating.

Culture and faith

University is a diverse, multicultural space, and there are many societies that celebrate it, whether it's through joint worship, cultural events or just the chance to socialise with people who literally speak your language. Groups such as the Jewish; Latin American & Spanish; Welsh, and Iraqi societies give you the chance to celebrate your own culture and learn about others.

Hobbies

Are you a chess whiz, anime addict or eSports star? There are societies that cover a huge range of hobbies, so you can get to know people through shared interests and by doing what you love. Can't find a society that you want? All student societies are run by students, so if you can find enough people with the same interest, you can start your own!



Sport is a great way to keep fit, have fun and make friends during your studies.

ALL SPORTS

Sports you know:

We have men's and women's (and sometimes mixed) teams in football, hockey, basketball, cricket, rugby and many more, that provide the opportunity to compete, improve your skills, or just meet people and socialise, no matter what level you're at.

...And some you've yet to try:

Maybe you're already an accomplished fencer, but have you ever been scuba diving, caving, or clay pigeon shooting? With over 50 sports clubs, there's bound to be something to interest you, from archery to Zumba, we have something for everyone.

Sports facilities

At the University of Reading we have a number of facilities available for fitness and sports training, including: a fitness studio, exercise studios and a sports hall, pitches for football, rugby, lacrosse, hockey and cricket, a boathouse on the River Thames and a state-of-the-art tennis facility.

Rowing scholarships

If you're a gifted rower, we have financial scholarships available for students who are hoping to compete in the Olympics. Find out more: readinguniversityboatclub.co.uk

Find out more:
rusu.co.uk/activities or sport.reading.ac.uk



HELP IS ALWAYS AT HAND

bigwhitewall.com

University can be an intimidating experience as you adjust to the differences in living and learning in a new environment. You can rely on a wide range of support services that work together to provide help and advice throughout your studies.

Health and wellbeing

Your physical and mental health are both important, and we do everything we can to make sure you can access help quickly and easily. The University Medical Centre has a range of services, and the counselling and wellbeing service provides mental health support through one-to-one meetings, group therapy sessions and online resources. The Student Welfare team can also help with a range of issues including homesickness, relationships and more.

Academic support

If you have any problems with studying for your degree, there are many places you can go for help. Your academic tutor is a member of staff who is there to support your academic, personal and professional development. Student Support Centres in your department can help you with a wide range of queries related to your studies. If you need help finding materials in the library, your course has a dedicated Liaison Librarian to help you. There's also a Study Advice Team and Maths Support Team on hand to support you in your studies.

DOING RESEARCH

At university you will be taught by real experts in their field. When they're not teaching, academics at university carry out important research into their field. Here are some of the questions we're asking (and answering!) at the University of Reading.

Environment

Professor Giles Harrison uses supercomputers to simulate the trillions of processes that happen inside a cloud, so we can understand how rain is created.

Food

Dr Jane Parker is working with food companies to make food that tastes "smoky" but without any of the nasty stuff that can be found in real smoke.

Health

Dr Alexander Edwards has created technology that can diagnose a heart attack in just 30 minutes.

Heritage and creativity

Dr Hella Eckhardt has uncovered the ethnic diversity of Roman Britain, showing a long history of immigration.

Prosperity and resilience

Dr Beatrice Krebs has helped to abolish the unfair crime of joint enterprise murder, which could cause a number of unfair convictions to be re-examined.

FINANCE

Lots of people worry about how they're going to pay for university. There is lots of support available for you to fund your studies.

Student loans

If you are a UK national and have been living in the UK for three years or more by the time you apply, you will be eligible for a student loan. These are awarded by the Student Finance body for your country – England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. The rules of the student loan differ for each country, so you will need to check with the relevant body when it's time for you to apply. Paying back the student loan is a simple process, based on how much you're earning at the time.

Bursaries and grants

Bursaries and grants are pots of money that you don't have to pay back, and are there to help you under certain circumstances. The government can give you a bursary if you are disabled, have children or someone who you have to care for – have a look at the webpages for your country. There is also financial support available for people studying Speech and Language Therapy. You may also be entitled to a bursary from the University of Reading if you are a care leaver or come from a low income household.

Scholarships are awards for people who have shown excellence in particular areas. For example, we offer financial support to highly skilled rowers, and some of our business courses come with scholarships for people with exceptional academic performance.

Student funding bodies:

Student Awards Agency Scotland
saas.gov.uk/

Student Finance England
gov.uk/studentfinance

Student Finance Northern Ireland
studentfinancenir.co.uk/

Student Finance Wales
studentfinancewales.co.uk/



MAKING IT WORK

Worrying about how you can have a great time at university but concerned about money? We have plenty of support to help you budget effectively.

Support and advice

As part of our Student Services, we have a Student Financial Support team who can offer support and guidance on many student finance problems. The Students' Union also has specialist money advisors to give one-to-one, confidential advice.

Save money

As a member of Reading University Students' Union, you are also entitled to an NUS card (National Union of Students). This entitles you to discounts at a number of outlets, including cinemas, clothes shops and train tickets. By spending carefully and wisely you can make your money go further in order to enjoy every opportunity.

Jobs

Working is a great way to supplement your income, gain experience and develop skills that will benefit you after university. We have an online service, Campus Jobs, which can help you find part-time work at the University, from one-off opportunities to regular shift work. You could be working for an on-campus café, for the Events team, or in academic departments.

You can also find work during the holidays. There are lots of placements and internships available and the University Careers Centre and your department tutors can help you find opportunities.



WHAT NOW?

Here is a list of things you can do now to make sure you're prepared!

- Learn to cook at least one complete evening meal
- Read a non-fiction book that is not required for school
- Learn how to do your laundry
- To ask existing students for advice create an account at The Student Room thestudentroom.co.uk
- Do a cultural activity related to your subject (visit a museum, go to the theatre, etc)
- Do a weekly food shop for your family. Set a budget!
- Order prospectuses from 5 different universities (they're free!)
- Get used to talking people you don't know. Join a new club out of school or sit next to someone new at school
- Learn how to clean the bathroom
- Talk to someone in a career that you're interested in
- Open a bank account in your own name and keep track of your money
- Attend an event at a university (e.g. a public lecture or a taster day)

JARGON BUSTER

A levels: academic qualifications that you take after GCSEs.

Adjustment: a chance to move to a different degree or university if you get better than expected results.

Aptitude tests: a separate test you may need to take for some degree courses. For example, when applying to medicine or dentistry you might need to take a test called UKCAT or the BMAT; for Law you might need to take the LNAT.

BTEC: vocational-based qualifications at the same level as A level.

Campus university: a university that has its own self-contained piece of land (called a campus) where students can live and study in the same place.

City university: a university that is in the heart of a town, where university life and the life of the town are mixed together.

Clearing: a last-minute opening of university places remaining in August.

Conditional offer: an offer from a university that relies on you getting certain grades at school or college.

Facilitating subjects: school subjects that are more likely than others to be required by university

Firm choice: the university place you accept as your number one choice.

Graduate: someone who has completed a degree.

Insurance choice: your second choice of course, in case you don't get the grades for your firm choice.

Placement year: a year-long break in your studies to work in industry.

Postgraduate: an advanced degree that you can study after completing an undergraduate degree first. Also the name for a person studying for a postgraduate degree.

Students' Union: an organisation run by students that gives you support, advice, and helps you meet people.

Study abroad: spending some time studying in a different country as part of your degree.

UCAS: the University and College Admissions Service

Unconditional offer: an offer of a place at university that doesn't require you to get certain grades.

Undergraduate: a type of degree that you can do straight after A levels. Also the name for a person studying for an undergraduate degree.

THINKING ABOUT UNIVERSITY?

 For more information,
please contact:

Global Recruitment (UK)

University of Reading
London Road campus
Reading RG1 5EX
United Kingdom

outreach@reading.ac.uk
www.reading.ac.uk