Hop on the bus

Ready for the autumn term, Reading Buses introduced a special travel card for staff and students at the University of Reading. For £99 you can get unlimited travel on all Reading bus services for the whole university term. It has proved very popular so far, with 250 people signing up for this great deal.

Since a simplyReading single currently costs £1.70, the savings can really add up. Doing some quick calculations, a bus user going to and from the University every weekday could save over £85 in a term! Based on this Travel Wise writer’s personal experience, having already taken advantage of this offer, it has made my bus travel more convenient. Instead of searching for change to buy my simplyReading ticket, now I just have to show my card to the driver. Plus the more I use the bus, the more cost effective it is!

With three bus services coming directly onto Whiteknights campus from town every 10 minutes, bus travel is a realistic alternative to car travel to the university. To find out more and to purchase your card for the spring term visit www.simplyuni.co.uk

PLUSBUS is available in Reading

PLUSBUS is a cheap bus pass (like a travelcard) that you buy with your train ticket at any National Rail station booking office, by phone or online. It gives you unlimited bus travel around the whole urban area of the origin and/or destination town of your train journey, including to and from the rail station. With a PLUSBUS ticket you can travel anywhere on most or all buses. Across Britain over 200 bus companies accept PLUSBUS tickets for travel on their services. Visit www.plusbus.info

BUG scheme?

A BUG (or Bicycle User Group) is a great way to share your enthusiasm for cycling with other like-minded people and to encourage your colleagues to cycle too. We currently do not have one at the University of Reading, but Travel Wise would like to know if anyone is interested in the idea? If you think it would be good or you’d like to take part, email us at eest@reading.ac.uk
University Car Club thriving

Since the launch of the University Car Club in April 2010 we’ve had a great uptake in members! Over 100 people have joined the scheme that gives them access to Pay as you go vehicles that are available for hire from Whiteknights campus.

For just £3.95 an hour you can use one of our Fiat 500s and be covered for insurance, tax, maintenance, the Congestion Charge and your first 30 miles of fuel. Once you have registered and received your access card, just book online or on the phone, use the car and drop it back for someone else when you’ve finished.

For more information and to find out how you can enrol for FREE (usual price £50) go to the Travel and Transport section on the Clean&Green website. Visit www.reading.ac.uk/cleanandgreen

Cycle to Work scheme draws to a close

It lasted for a year and encouraged over 60 people to leave their cars at home in favour of bikes, but sadly the Cycle to Work scheme will not be running for a second year. A victim of government budget restructuring, it was decided that the benefits now don’t outweigh the costs involved in joining the nationwide scheme.

However it showed us that people are interested in cycling to work rather than using their cars, which is an encouraging sign and hopefully more people will turn to their bikes as an option for transport. At a time when everyone is trying to watch their spending, it is one of the cheapest ways to get out and about (and one of the most environmentally friendly too).

As the days get shorter, you might want to consider purchasing a hi-viz vest, available from Security for just £2, they also have available D locks for £12.