READING SCHOLARS 2020

Reading Scholars is a year long programme consisting of thirteen strands, which aims to give you a real taste of life as a university student, an insight into studying at degree level and also advice and guidance on higher education in general. Featuring input from leading academics and current undergraduate students, the programme seeks to challenge you academically and enhance your current studies.

WHEN AND WHERE?

The programme takes place at the University of Reading, and you will participate in four events throughout the academic year. These will include:

- In January, an introductory session to the University and programme, an opportunity to meet your mentor and fellow Reading Scholars.
- In February, an academic session within your chosen strand.
- In April, a second academic session in your chosen strand.
- In July, a four day residential summer school that aims to increase your subject knowledge as well as enhancing some of the key skills needed to succeed at university.
- In September of Yr13, we also run an optional UCAS application workshop.

Events will typically run from 9.30am-3.30pm.

You will participate in a project related to your strand, designed to prepare you for work you will undertake at university.

Participation costs for all students are covered, including transport, food, refreshments and accommodation for the summer 2020 residential.

You will be mentored throughout the programme by one of our current students. They will support you to participate in on-campus events, and will also provide e-mentoring between events.

‘I feel Reading Scholars widened my knowledge base in the art and design field, especially graphic design, and I made use of this knowledge in my Art AS level and in producing my portfolio and personal statement for university applications. Finally, it gave a feeling of what it is like to study a design course at university, which in turn helped inform my university choices.’

Ed (Art & Design)

ARCHITECTURE

You will gain an insight into what being an Architecture student here at Reading is like, through a mixture of lectures, seminars and practical drawing workshops, designed to provide you with material to include in your portfolio. You will be able to visit the facilities available to Architecture students, and speak directly to academics and current Architecture students.

Subject requirements:

You should have an interest in applying for a related subject at university.

ART & DESIGN

You will experience a range of forms of art and design, as well as undertaking sessions in the history of art. Your practical sessions may include print-making, photography, graphic design and clay modelling. You will have the chance to specialise in either art or design, and you will leave with material to include in your portfolio to give you an edge when making your university applications.

Subject requirements:

You should have an interest in applying for a related subject at university.

BIOLOGY

Working in university laboratories to carry out practical experiments as well as experiencing lectures, you will learn more about Biological techniques which have a real world relevance. You will also gain an insight into related fields such as Biomedical Engineering.

Subject requirements:

You should be studying towards an A-level in Biology or equivalent qualification, as well as have an interest in applying for a related subject at university.
BUSINESS
Finding out about the range of degrees offered through our business school, you will spend time in lectures and seminars covering subjects including business and management, accounting and finance.

Subject requirements:
Studying towards an A-level or equivalent in Maths is an advantage but not essential. You should have an interest in applying for a related degree at university.

CHEMISTRY, FOOD SCIENCE & PHARMACY
You will undertake both practical sessions in our laboratories and lectures, covering each of these subject areas. This will give you a great insight into what studying each of these subjects at university would be like, as well as developing your knowledge to support you in your studies.

Subject requirements:
You should be studying towards an A-level in Chemistry or equivalent qualification, as well as an interest in applying for a related subject at university.

EDUCATION
You will gain an insight into the different degrees available to students through the Institute of Education, including the BA in Primary Teaching (QTS), and the BA in Education Studies. You will experience how these courses are delivered, understand the role of placements as part of the course and how these are supported, and how specialisms within courses can give you an advantage in your post-university career.

Subject requirements:
You should have an interest in applying for a related subject at university.

ENGLISH LITERATURE
You will participate in lectures, seminars and workshops, looking at literature from a range of authors and periods of history, exploring, analysing and critiquing these texts with the support of academics, mentors and fellow scholars.

Subject requirements:
You should be studying towards an A-level in English Literature or equivalent qualification, as well as an interest in applying for a related subject at university.

FILM, THEATRE AND TELEVISION
Experiencing the fantastic facilities available in the purpose-built Minghella Studio, you will experience practical and theoretical sessions designed to give you a rounded experience of the courses delivered by the Film, Theatre and Television Department. You will get to analyse and discuss films, performances and plays, as well as utilizing your own creativity to put together your own pieces of work and performances.

Subject requirements:
You should have an interest in applying for a related subject at university.

HISTORY, CLASSICS & ARCHAEOLOGY
A mix of practical workshops and lectures, this strand will give you a thorough understanding of how these related subjects further our knowledge of the past. You will go on a journey through history, exploring different cultures and civilisations, spending time within each subject area.

Subject requirements:
It would be helpful, though not essential, if you are studying towards an A-level in History or equivalent qualification, as well as an interest in applying for a related subject at university.

LANGUAGES
You will choose to specialise in either French, German or Spanish for the duration of the programme, where you will experience practical language learning sessions designed to enhance your subject knowledge. You will also experience lectures to develop your understanding of the culture and history of nations using these languages.

Subject requirements:
You should be studying towards an A-level in French, German or Spanish or equivalent qualification, as well as an interest in applying for a related subject at university.

MATHEMATICS
You will participate in sessions designed to show you how mathematical techniques can be applied to the real world, gaining an insight into areas such as experimental design and mathematical modelling of the spread of disease.

Subject requirements:
You should be studying towards an A-level in Mathematics or equivalent qualification, as well as an interest in applying for a related subject at university.
PSYCHOLOGY

Are you interested in how the human mind develops over a lifetime? Do you wonder how we perceive the world around us? Whilst on the Psychology strand, you’ll gain valuable insight into how and why we study Psychology at University level. You will amongst other things, also hear sessions on the inner workings of the world’s most complex machine: the human brain.

Subject requirements:
You should be interested in applying for a related subject at university.

‘Reading Scholars was an excellent way to make my university choice and think about what career I want to have. The organised events gave me loads of opportunities to meet people with similar interests and aspirations. This programme gave me the confidence in one of the most important decisions - in which field I want to extend my knowledge.’

Diana (Chemistry, Food Science & Pharmacy)

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

By experiencing both practical workshops and lectures, you will participate in sessions designed to develop your knowledge of the environment around us. You will experience sessions in both subject areas, designed to give you an insight into how you would experience these subjects at degree level.

Subject requirements:
You should be studying towards an A-level in Geography or equivalent qualification, as well as an interest in applying for a related subject at university.

HOW DO I APPLY?

To apply for this programme, you will need to:
• Meet the eligibility criteria specified below
• Gain consent from your school/college, and your parents/carer to participate in this programme
• Complete an application form available at: www.reading.ac.uk/reading-scholars specifying your first and seconds choice of strand
• Complete the online form, or send your application and supporting documents to us either via email outreach@reading.ac.uk or through the post: Student Recruitment and Outreach, University of Reading, LO27, London Road Campus, 4 Redlands Road, Reading, RG1 6EX

The closing date for applications is Friday 8 November 2019
Please note that we will accept photocopies of the application form.

Who can apply?
To be eligible for this programme, you will need to:
• Have achieved at least 5 A*-C GCSE grades or equivalent, including in English Language, Maths and Science.
• Be on track to achieve good results at A-level (or equivalent). Students who would benefit from the additional support that the programme provides are also encouraged to apply.
• Be attending a state school or college.

We particularly welcome applications from students interested in studying at the University of Reading.

Due to the nature of funding for this programme, priority will be given to students who meet one or more of the following selection criteria:
• Is in or has been in care of local authority
• Asylum seeker/refugee
• Young Carer
• Has a disability
• Eligible for Free School Meals/ Discretionary school payments.
• Family income of less than £25,000
• Lives in postcode where less students than average progress to higher education (POLAR 4 quintile 1 or 2)

What are the benefits?
By engaging in this programme, you will:
• Be supported in developing your academic ability.
• Learn new techniques and gain practical experience relevant to your chosen strand.
• Receive detailed information and guidance on higher education and the UCAS application process.
• Develop and strengthen the personal and social skills that will help you in higher education study.
• Meet new people with similar interests to yourself.
• Engage with current University of Reading students and learn what it is really like to study at a university.
• Participate in e-mentoring with a current student, via a secure and safe online platform.
• Get to take part in fun activities and a residential event in the summer.

Our commitment to you
We aim to provide
• A safe and supportive environment for all participants
• Ongoing support after completion of the Scholars programme whilst you complete your university applications

We in turn expect our Reading Scholars students to:
• Attend all of the on-campus events
• Actively take part in e-mentoring (send a minimum of one message per week)
• Reply in a timely fashion to all correspondence from University of Reading staff
• Follow our Code of Conduct

If you COMPLETE the Reading Scholars programme and apply to University of Reading you will be eligible for a TWO GRADE DROP on your offer for MOST COURSES

If you COMPLETE the Reading Scholars programme and apply to University of Reading we GUARANTEE you a CONDITIONAL OFFER or invite you to attend an interview here

ALL Reading Scholars students who put University of Reading down as their firm choice with UCAS are eligible to apply for a SCHOLARS BURSARY in their first year
ABOUT US

OVER 200 COURSES TO FIND OUT ABOUT

98% OF RESEARCH IS RATED OF INTERNATIONAL STANDING

94% OF GRADUATES IN WORK OR FURTHER STUDY SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATING

READ SCHOLARS 2020

For more information, please contact:

Global Recruitment UK
University of Reading
LO27 London Road Campus
4 Redlands Road
Reading, RG1 5EX
E: outreach@reading.ac.uk
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