Our new identity has been rolling out across the University and town – see our feature article inside.
University opens new School of Architecture

The University of Reading is pleased to announce that it will be opening a new School of Architecture in 2016.

The School will enhance the University’s world-class reputation for research and teaching relating to the built environment. Recruitment for the first intake of around 40 students begins later this year.

Leading the new School will be Professor Lorraine Farrelly who joins the University as the Foundation Professor of Architecture. Lorraine was previously Deputy Head of the School of Architecture and Professor of Architecture and Design at the University of Portsmouth.

An experienced architect and educator, she is committed to an industry-facing School of Architecture, working in partnership with practising architects to ensure that students will be ready for practice when they graduate.

This programme is the first of its kind in the Thames Valley region and has been developed in partnership with Royal Berkshire Hospital and Berkshire Healthcare Trust, along with the collaboration of local clinical commissioning groups.

Training a new breed of medical professionals

The University of Reading is to train a new generation of medical professionals who will support the health services in delivering stronger and more cost-effective patient care.

The Postgraduate Diploma Physician Associate programme is designed to train graduates for the important and expanding role of Physician Associate (PA) in the NHS. PAs are science graduates who then receive two years of intensive training before they begin working alongside doctors, supporting them in the diagnosis and management of patients.

Deputy Mayor of Reading receives Alumnus of the Year Award

The Deputy Mayor of Reading, Councillor Sarah Hacker, has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to the community.

Sarah graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Rural Environmental Science in 2000. A councillor in Reading since 2010, she was elected as Deputy Mayor of the town in June 2014. Since being appointed, she has successfully campaigned for more school places and a new primary school in West Reading and has helped to secure £1.65 million of funding to benefit residents.

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You may have seen the University’s posters across Reading buses over the last few months, or perhaps spotted them further afield on the London Underground or at Paddington station. This has been part of the University’s first ever national advertising campaign, Ready?, aimed at encouraging people to come and study here at Reading.

I’m pleased to say it has borne fruit – we had record numbers of open day visitors and a 21% increase in this year’s applications – a great result when applications have flatted nationally.

This popularity will allow us to ensure the ongoing high quality of our student body, at a time when there has never been more competition between universities to attract the best students. The University has to be creative and professional in promoting the benefits of studying here – and that includes promoting Reading as a town.

One of our messages about our identity is the thriving location we’re in and how we interact with our local area. We’re one of the biggest regional employers, with over 4,000 staff. And we generate jobs and growth through our world-class research and work with industry.

Those applicants who are selected for a place become part of our local community as well as part of the University. Hundreds of our students volunteer and work in the community. Thousands more live and work in Reading after they finish their degrees – becoming the lifeblood of our town.

We’ll keep putting out the positive messages about Reading – University and town – in 2015. I hope our enthusiasm and optimism has caught your imagination too.

93% of our graduates are in work or higher-level education within six months. Three quarters of our employed graduates are in professional or managerial positions.

 ARE YOU READY?
Find out at reading.ac.uk
University of Reading strengthens research reputation

The University has strengthened its standing as a leading research institution in the biggest national assessment of UK university research.

The University of Reading has been ranked 27th out of 154 institutions by research power, a measure of both the quality and quantity of research, in the Research Excellence Framework 2014 (REF).

Sir David Bell, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Reading, said: ‘These results show that Reading is an institution that conducts outstanding research which makes a difference to people’s lives. Over the last two years we have appointed 50 new senior academics as part of a major investment programme to further knowledge in research areas of critical global importance. By continuing to invest in new research centres and technology, Reading is at the forefront of pioneering research and innovation.’

For more information about our results visit: www.reading.ac.uk/ref-2014.aspx

Wildlife on campus

The University of Reading’s Whiteknights campus is home to more than 1,400 different species.

Over the last 12 months, staff and students at the University have been carefully counting and recording various species. To date, 1,456 different animals, plants and fungi have been found.

Dr Graham Holloway, Director of Postgraduate Taught Studies in the School of Biological Sciences, said: ‘We are very lucky to have Whiteknights as the main campus for the University. The number of different species found so far demonstrates what a wonderful natural habitat it is. From the 124 different bird species to 610 plant species, students, staff and the local community all benefit from its wonderful biodiversity.’

The Whiteknights campus currently ranks 11th in the ‘pan-species listing rankings’, a list of sites where wildlife species are counted. It is currently the only university campus to be featured in the list of recorded sites.

A full breakdown of the Whiteknights species list can be found on the Whiteknights Biodiversity blog, which is regularly updated by students and staff. Find out more: blogs.reading.ac.uk/whiteknightsbiodiversity

Shinfield Eastern Relief Road

Hochtief (UK)

Construction have been appointed by the University of Reading as the contractor to design and construct the new Shinfield Eastern Relief Road (ERR).

The new road forms part of the infrastructure to serve new homes, community facilities, open space and the University of Reading Thames Valley Science Park.

A single carriageway road will run eastwards in an arc from a new bridge over the M4 to a roundabout to allow access to the future Thames Valley Science Park. It will continue southwards crossing Cutbush Lane, to a roundabout junction with the A327 Arborfield Road, east of Parrot Farm.

The existing A327 Black Boy Bridge will be closed to southbound vehicles and buses to allow its use by pedestrians, cyclists and northbound buses.

Students’ Union calls on students to vote

Reading University Students’ Union (RUSU) is calling on all students to ensure that they register to vote.

Natalie Harper, President of RUSU, said: ‘Students can now be registered to vote both where they study and in their home constituency. As the general election will fall during term time it makes sense to register to vote here. Students can register online with their national insurance number.’

Go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

For more information about events which are being organised to encourage student participation in the general election, contact Natalie at president@rusu.co.uk

Elections 7 May 2015

The General Election and local council elections will be taking place on 7 May.

Local councils are contacting every property in their area to encourage residents to ensure they are registered to vote. If you are not on the register of electors you will not be able to vote in May.

In order to register, or to make changes to your existing registration, visit: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

The last day for applications to be received in time for the elections is Monday 20 April.
Free health advice to local community

Members of the local community have been receiving free check-ups and advice from trainee pharmacists.

Fourth-year students from the Reading School of Pharmacy are providing Healthy Living Assessment and Advice at the Earley CResCent Resource Centre and Amersham Road Community Centre. Participants can have their blood pressure measured, their glucose and cholesterol levels checked and their weight and lifestyle assessed.

Dr Parastou Donyai, Director of Pharmacy Practice at the University’s School of Pharmacy, said: ‘These simple but vital tests offer an important service to the community, potentially helping people to avoid serious health issues in the future. At the same time, they give students an opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have developed over the last three and a half years. Our first sessions in January were hugely popular in the post-festive period and we hope to build on this so that more people can benefit.’

Helping people to avoid serious health issues in the future

The service is funded by the Earley Charity which identified two areas in Reading to pilot the scheme. If you would like to have a free Healthy Living Assessment then make an appointment or just drop in (see right for times). We hope to see you there.

Appointments can be made in advance:
- Earley CResCent: 0118 921 0555
- Amersham Road Community Centre: 0118 937 5610
- www.reading.ac.uk/pharmacy

Could your organisation benefit from a student intern?

The Reading Internship Scheme (RIS) is run by the Careers Service at the University of Reading, in association with Santander Universities SME Programme and The Earley Charity, and offers project-based internships. Internships typically last 6–12 weeks and take place over the summer. They are open to all students including postgraduates, allowing small to medium sized employers (SMEs) access to a wide range of talented students, and giving our students valuable workplace experience.

Funding opportunities are available for charities and start-ups

The University has a budget to financially incentivise organisations to take on paid student interns. For local charities (and start-ups less than two years old) this can be up to 100% funding, whilst for others 50% of the salary of an intern is available.

Contact Jonathan Bainbridge:
j.m.bainbridge@reading.ac.uk
www.reading.ac.uk/careers/ris

Student Community Awards – nominations

Student Community Awards recognise the individual efforts of students who help others by making a contribution to the local community, or with acts of kindness or good neighbourliness.

Prize(s) of up to £200 may be awarded to individual students, specific groups of students or student households.

Nominations are sought from students, University staff, local residents, or organisations students’ are involved in, and should normally be made without the students’ knowledge.

The Awards Committee, made up of representatives from the University and the local community, will announce the winner(s) in May 2015.

The closing date for nominations is 24 April 2015. See our website to download a nomination form: www.reading.ac.uk/about/about-scaawards.aspx

Alternatively, contact Ann Westgarth: 0118 378 4479 or a.westgarth@reading.ac.uk

The award has been funded by donations made to the Annual Fund by Reading alumni and others.

Host families wanted

The International Study & Language Institute (ISLI) is looking for host families for some of our mature international students.

We have groups of Chinese and Japanese students who come to the UK for short courses which vary in length from one week to three months. These students want to gain experience of living in a home environment and to practise their English language.

The host family will receive a payment of £15.50 per student per night which should cover a substantial breakfast. Students should be given access to the kitchen to cook their own evening meal. A payment of £20 per student per night is made if the host provides a cooked evening meal.

If you are interested in becoming a host family or would like more information, please contact Jane Lansdown or Carole Millington: 0118 378 2507 / 0118 378 5768 or lisishortcourses@reading.ac.uk

Student volunteers help the Friends of Waterloo Meadows plant trees
EVENTS: Reading Science Week 2015

Part of a national celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths.

16 MAR
7pm
Palmer Building, Whiteknights campus
The Great Debate – engineering the environment: coping with climate change
Join this annual Great Debate, led by the University of Reading and the Engineering Institutions of the Thames Valley. Discuss how climate change affects British infrastructure and the engineering required to tackle its impact. Admission is free. Register at www.reading.ac.uk/events

16 MAR
7.30pm
Cafe Scientifique: synthetic biology – why now and what next?
Monroe’s Rib House, 61 St Mary’s Butts, Reading, RG1 2LG
This British Science Week Café Sci will be given by the University of Reading’s iGEM (International Genetically Engineered Machine) team. The session will be followed by a panel debate on the subject. Admission is free, all welcome.

18 MAR
8pm
Palmer Building, Whiteknights campus
Public lecture: The weather at war
We are a nation obsessed with the weather. Over time we have become increasingly accurate at predicting it and more reliant on the science behind the forecasts. But just how important is it to get the weather forecast right? Meteorologist Dr Andrew Charlton-Perez examines the science – and the scientists – behind one of the most important weather forecasts in our history: the forecast for the Allies’ D-Day landing in Normandy, June 1944. Admission is free. Register at www.reading.ac.uk/events

19 MAR
7.45pm
The Sutcliffe Theatre, Electricity (15)
Palmer Building, Whiteknights campus
The science and folklore behind eclipses
The Sutcliffe Theatre, Meteorology Building, Earley Gate, Whiteknights campus
On Friday 20 March there will be a rare near-total eclipse visible from the UK. The Department of Meteorology invites you to this special event to discover the science and folklore behind this natural phenomenon, and the weather changes that may accompany it. Admission is free, places are limited. To book a place, contact Dawn Turner: d.m.turner@reading.ac.uk 0118 378 6013

19 MAR
7pm
Reading Film Theatre: Electricity (15)
Palmer Building, Whiteknights campus
Reading Film Theatre presents a special film screening, with a lively discussion and Q&A session led by University of Reading neuroscientist Dr Gary Stephens. Tickets: £8 / £7 concessions / £5 members
www.readingfilmtheatre.co.uk

21 MAR
7pm
South Street Arts Centre, 21 South Street, Reading, RG1 4QU
Science Slam
A thrilling competition where eight of our enthusiastic researchers present their mind-boggling work in performances lasting eight minutes. At the end of the evening the audience must vote and decide: which scientist will thrive and which will struggle to survive? As science and art collides, let our scientists challenge and entertain you as they explain new and exciting research to both serious and jocular effect.
Tickets: £8 / £5 available from: www.readingarts.com/southstreet/whatson

25 FEB
7pm
ICMA Centre Henley Business School, Whiteknights Campus University of Reading Berkshire RG6 6UD
Professor Clark will discuss what changes in consumer behaviour mean to business and the consumer. She will ask what makes a ‘perfect’ customer experience? The phenomenon of mis-selling will also be investigated: to what extent are consumers to blame, or are we being manipulated into buying things we don’t really need? Admission is free, places are limited. Contact: henleyevents@henley.ac.uk

26 FEB
1pm
Does Fairtrade work?
Henley Business School, Lecture Theatre G11, Whiteknights campus
Reading University Students’ Union Fairtrade Society and the University’s School of Politics, Economics and International Relations are delighted to welcome Rudi Dalvai to discuss. Does Fairtrade Work? Admission is free, all welcome. Whiteknights campus is well-served by public transport but if you are coming by car you’ll need a parking permit. Please contact a.b.potter@reading.ac.uk for more information. This event is part of Fairtrade Fortnight 23 Feb – 8 March 2015. Look out for lots of other events and activities on campus and in town.

10 MAR
7pm
Ladybird by Design: 100 years of words and pictures
Building L22, London Road campus
2015 is the centenary of the iconic children’s Ladybird Books. The University’s Museums and Special Collections, custodians of the distinctive archive of Ladybird artwork, are delighted to host this special talk, celebrating 100 years of these much-loved books. Guests will have a chance to view a special pop-up exhibition of items from the Ladybird Archive before the lecture. Admission is free, places are limited. Contact: merlevents@reading.ac.uk or call 0118 378 8660. Drawings from the archive will also be on display in Alan Sealy: Art and Nature, an exhibition at Reading Museum until 22 March.
**Designing healthy homes**

A new research project being carried out in the School of Construction Management and Engineering, run by Dr Ian Ewart, is looking for volunteer householders to use some exciting new 3D technology to design their ideal healthy home.

**What makes a healthy home?**
It might be that staying warm is top of your priorities, especially if you are a bit older. Or if you have a young family, then maybe you think more about safety. Then again, surely being ‘healthy’ at home also includes being happy, not having too much stress, being able to make nice food, to see your friends and family, and so on.

**Could you design your own healthy home?**
If anyone knows the problems of house design for young parents, surely it’s young parents! And what about for older people, or disabled households?

So, if you think you can give up some time to let us investigate how you live your life at home, and let us transform your design ideas into Virtual Reality then please get in touch, it would be great to hear from you!

**i.j.ewart@reading.ac.uk**
**0118 378 8205**

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**EVENTS**

**Whiteknights Studio Trail**
Enjoy seeing a wide variety of arts and crafts produced by talented artists who live and work locally and take the opportunity to ask about their working methods and what inspires them. The University’s Fine Art Degree Show will also be open at Earley Gate. Whiteknights campus, where you can see the work of the next generation of artists: [www.studiotrail.co.uk](http://www.studiotrail.co.uk)

**Fine Art Degree Show, University of Reading**

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**MORE EVENTS**
Visit our website for more events and activities
[www.reading.ac.uk/events](http://www.reading.ac.uk/events)

Email or phone for a printed copy of our events diary:
**events@reading.ac.uk**
**0118 378 4313**

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