FOREWORD

The University of Reading has a long and rich heritage of delivering a distinctive learning environment for students; we are a global, research-intensive university with teaching, learning and the student experience at our heart. Our ethos is one of working in partnership with our students, and the Students’ Union / Association, and of strong support for our staff.

This Strategy builds on the successes of its forerunner, notably in the areas of staff development and reward, and in fostering a culture of innovation and excellence in teaching. With our Curriculum Framework, we have established a unique vehicle, positioning subject-mastery, employability, research and enquiry, and diversity and inclusivity at the very centre of our ambitions.

Our Strategy identifies two clear priority areas: delivering academic excellence, and offering students an outstanding learning experience. These overarching priorities will provide our manifesto over the coming years and will drive our resourcing decisions and our direction, whilst delivering the teaching and learning focus to the University’s parallel strategies for research, for global engagement, for the development of our estate and facilities, and for our people.

Professor Gavin Brooks
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
(Teaching and Learning)

OUR VISION AND AMBITION

As a global, broad-based and inclusive institution we are committed to pursuing excellence in learning and teaching and offering an outstanding experience for all students. Our institutional strategy to 2026 sets out the University’s vision and ambition for Teaching and Learning.

Working in partnership with students, we will:

• Deliver strong programmes at all levels of higher education, within distinctive and innovative models, rooted in research and closely aligned with practice.
• Continually refresh our view of how learning can best be achieved and develop new ways of delivering and accessing teaching and learning.
• Review, enhance, diversify and grow our global portfolio of programmes, taking advantage of new opportunities and responding to new markets, and consolidating and rationalising provision where necessary to support growth and maintain sustainability.

We will equip learners at all stages of their careers to develop and fulfil their intellectual and personal potential. Graduates of the University of Reading will have developed a range of attributes to prepare them for 21st century lives, including: mastery of their discipline; skills in research and enquiry; personal effectiveness and self-awareness; and global engagement, and multicultural awareness.
OUR TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY

We will work towards our vision by focusing on two key strategic priorities over the next three years.

1 Delivering academic excellence through our new Curriculum Framework:
   a. Reviewing our Curriculum to ensure our programmes align with our core academic and pedagogic principles, supporting our students to enable them to develop the essential attributes for 21st century lives, including:
      i. Increasing student engagement with academic study through best practice approaches to supporting students to become independent learners.
      ii. Evolving our approaches to teaching and learning, in particular incorporating the wider use of new Technology Enhanced Learning methods.
      iii. Developing robust assessment practices and providing effective feedback, allowing students to continually improve their learning.
   b. Developing our portfolio of programmes to diversify into new areas and delivery methods and consolidating provision where necessary to support growth and maintain sustainability.

2 Offering an outstanding student learning experience by:
   a. Supporting all members of our increasingly diverse student body to participate positively in the University’s teaching and learning community from transition through to completion.
   b. Providing our students with the best possible curricular and co-curricular personal development opportunities that enable them to reach their full potential.
   c. Equipping students with the aspirations, confidence and skills to become highly employable graduates who are sought after by employers, both nationally and internationally, and are able to respond to diverse opportunities and challenges.
ENABLING OUR STRATEGY

To enable achievement of our strategic priorities, we will:

a. Continue our commitment to recruit, develop, value and reward well-qualified professional and academic staff.
b. Develop mechanisms to support meaningful student-staff partnerships across all aspects of the student learning experience.
c. Update and invest in learning environments, systems and technologies to support our students and staff now and in the future.
d. Provide high-quality professional support and services that are accessible for our diverse student and staff communities.
e. Support all students to access and understand the value of work-based learning, career development, student mobility and global engagement opportunities.

IMPLEMENTING OUR STRATEGY

Our Teaching and Learning Strategy is supported by a flexible Implementation Plan that sets out the key strategic activities that we are committed to during this strategy period 2018–21.

We will work to ensure that our Teaching and Learning priorities are aligned to, and informed by, other University strategies and planning processes, to enable the Institution to make the best use of resources.

To measure our performance and the success of our Strategy, we will continue to use the relevant Institutional and Teaching and Learning Key Performance Indicators and will identify and monitor progress against targets and milestones relating to specific activities and projects.