

End of term newsletter Autumn 2020



Welcome to your end of term Student Services newsletter for Autumn 2020 at the University of Reading.

It has been a challenging year for all of us and we look forward to the new year with hope. In the meantime, [we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas from everyone at the University of Reading.](#)

To help keep you informed over the festive period, we have created [a dedicated area on Essentials full of information and updates about the University at Christmas](#), things to do if you're staying in Reading, and next term.

Spring term update



Following the end of lockdown restrictions in England on 2 December, Reading and Wokingham, the local authorities in which the University is located, are now in the 'high alert' or Tier 2 level of restrictions of the local COVID alert system.

The government has assured universities that we can remain open if [safety measures are in place to minimise the spread of the virus](#). Please also take a moment to read the [full details of the high alert restrictions](#) on the government website.

Spring term will start as planned on **Monday 11 January**. The government has advised universities to 'stagger' the return of students to campus, prioritising students on programmes with practical elements or placements; a further email will follow **by the end of this week** with further details about arrangements for the start of the spring term.

We are still planning to reopen our Library, catering services and campus facilities from 4 January after the Christmas closure.

Staying in Reading?



If you're planning to stay in Reading over the Christmas closure period (**22 December to 3 January**), it's [really important to let Student Services know](#).

This is for a several reasons:

- For health and safety reasons
- To provide any support you might need
- To keep you up to date with any important information
- To let you know about events or activities you might want to get involved with

If this applies to you, [please fill in this short form](#), remembering to tell us which hall of residence you will be staying in if that applies to you.

Connect with others



Keeping connected with others has never been more important this year, and that is especially true at Christmas. A great place to do this is on the [RUSU Community Facebook page](#), where you can find out what's on, who's around, and how to get in touch with people.

Here are just a few of the activities and opportunities for you to keep in touch with other students as we approach the festive season:

- **Gingerbread Competition | 10 December**

Our annual gingerbread competition is approaching – virtually this year! Take part and build your own gingerbread house or join us on the 10th December to see the creations. [Find out more](#).

- **RUSU's Christmas Meet-Up | 18 December, 5-6pm**

RUSU will be hosting a [virtual Christmas meet-up](#) for all those who are still staying in Reading and want to have some virtual festive fun. Join Bandy Karki, RUSU Welfare Officer, and Rachel Wates, RUSU Diversity Officer, on the 18th December to play games and have a chat. You don't have to celebrate Christmas to join in the fun - just bring yourself and [come along to relax and connect with others](#).

Don't forget – you can find out a full list of things to do on the dedicated [Get Together Apart](#) Essentials page.

Brexit update for
EU students



The UK left the European Union on 31 January 2020 and the post-Brexit transition period is due to end on 31 December 2020. If you are an international or EU student currently studying here at Reading, it is important to make sure you know how you may be affected.

Our [Brexit pages on Essentials](#) have been updated with frequently asked questions on a range of topics to help our EU students currently studying here in Reading. You should also regularly check the [Foreign Office website](#) for the latest information and sign up for their [Brexit alerts](#).

If you have any queries please email the team at immigration@reading.ac.uk.

Timetables



Timetables for the spring and summer term are due to be released on **Friday 18 December**. Your timetabled sessions are automatically added to your Outlook calendar, and you can also login to [CMISGo](#) or [Me@Reading](#) to view your timetable.

Support and contacts



Most buildings on the university estate will be card access only from the end of term until the university reopens on Monday 4 January. The [Student Services](#)

[\(Carrington\) building](#) will remain open access until Monday 21 December.

Please note the following arrangements:

- **Support Centres:** [Ask a Question](#) is the main method for contacting support centres with non-urgent queries. Student-facing staff will be on campus for in-person student enquiries up to Friday 11 December (10am-4pm) and again from 4 January (10am-4pm). From Monday 14 to Friday 18 and Monday 21 December (10am-4pm), Support Centre staff will be available remotely by [telephone](#).
- **Student Services Reception:** From Monday 14 to Friday 18 December, the reception will be open for in-person enquiries from 11am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm. On Monday 21 December, the desk will be open from 11am to 1pm. Telephone 0118 378 5555 (Mondays to Thursdays 09:00 – 17:00 and on Friday 09:00 - 16:30) or email studenthelp@reading.ac.uk. The reception will close on Monday 21 December and reopen on Monday 4 January.
- **Student Welfare Team:** Last working day for the team is Monday 21 December at 5pm, returning on Monday 4 January.

Full contact information details for support services and other facilities such as the Library during the closure period can be found on the [Essentials Christmas site](#), or by following @unirdg_student on Twitter.

Helplines and mental health support

- Urgent concerns about your mental health? Call the [Berkshire NHS Crisis](#) number on 0300 365 0300; they are available 24/7.
 - If you are feeling suicidal or desperate to talk to someone, you can call the [Samaritans](#) for free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 116 123.
 - [PAPYRUS](#) is the national UK charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide and offers a telephone and text service on 0800 068 4141. The service is staffed by trained mental health professionals 10am – 10pm weekdays and 2 – 5pm at the weekend.
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- Your doctor/GP practice. If you are registered with the University Medical practice in Northcourt Avenue, the number is: 0118 987 4551. Otherwise, please contact the doctor with whom you are registered.
 - Non-urgent NHS medical help/advice: 111
 - Emergency services: 999
 - University Security Team emergency number: 0118 378 6300
 - University Security Team non-emergency number: 0118 378 7799 or safety@reading.ac.uk.
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