CAREERS

WORK EXPERIENCE FRAMEWORK

Build your own portfolio of work experience alongside your degree.

Click on the coloured circles to explore the possibilities.

Check out MyJobsOnline as a great place to browse opportunities, search events and book appointments with the Careers team.
CURRICULAR PLACEMENTS

All undergraduate and some postgrad programmes have an optional placement module available unless you are undertaking a professionally accredited degree where you'll be required to undertake professional training throughout your studies. Placement options can vary in length and can take place in term time or during summer vacations.

Please see RISIS and speak to your school regarding placement modules.

**BENEFITS:**

- transferable skills
- possibility of job offer before finishing placement
- put academic learning into context
- gain hands-on experience working on real projects in a professional environment.

A valuable and sometimes essential part of your degree, work placements provide an opportunity for you to apply your transferable skills and contextualise your academic knowledge in a real work setting, while gaining an insight into the way organisations operate and the challenges they face.

PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENT YEAR

A Professional Placement Year is available on many of our undergraduate degree programmes or there may be the flexibility to convert to one if your programme allows. Some placements will be paid, others may be voluntary. There is support and training available to students to help you secure your placement.

**BENEFITS:**

- transferable skills
- put academic learning into context
- gain hands-on experience working on real projects in a professional environment
- possibility of job offer before finishing placement.

YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN: INTERNSHIPS

Visit the Internships page for more information.

KEY

- Local
- National
- International
- Online option
- Date dependent

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INTERNSHIPS
Aim to complete an internship during your studies. They do not need to be related to your discipline – use internships to explore sectors and organisations that might be of interest to you in the future.
Many employers offer paid internship opportunities. Living cost bursary support may be provided for extracurricular, unpaid internships.

BENEFITS:
- transferable skills
- experience working on real projects in a professional setting
- demonstrates proactivity/dedication.

READING INTERNSHIP SCHEME
Paid, professional work experience and the chance to develop your transferable skills. Part time internships during term and full time during vacations. This is extracurricular and cannot be counted towards your degree modules.

BENEFITS:
- paid
- transferable skills
- experience working on real projects in a professional setting.

UROP
Provides exciting opportunities for undergraduate students in the middle years of their degree to work on real research projects alongside academic researchers at the university.

BENEFITS:
- paid (bursary)
- transferable skills
- gain hands-on research experience
- Test an academic career path.

BRIGHT NETWORKS
Take part in 3-day virtual internship experiences where you can choose from 8 key sectors and connect with world leading employers.

BENEFITS:
- enhance CV
- gain experience and develop skills.

An internship will give you valuable work experience that employers look for when they're hiring graduates. It shows proactivity and dedication to bettering your career prospects, but also will provide you with valuable on-the-job experience.
**GOINGGLOBAL**

GoingGlobal is an amazing resource for anyone looking to travel for work or study. GoingGlobal will be useful for UK students looking to find work or study abroad, or international students seeking work or study in their home country or elsewhere in the world.

**BENEFITS:**
- transferable skills
- develop or build on language skills
- experience different cultures
- the experience can be both life enriching and career enhancing.

**FORAGE**

An online resource which offers virtual experience programmes designed by leading companies. Gain a real understanding of different roles and sectors by working through self-paced modules, with tasks similar to those undertaken during a traditional internship.

**BENEFITS:**
- develop skills
- understanding of roles and sectors.

**CAMPUS JOBS**

The University's one-stop shop for all part time and temporary work at the University both on campus and online.

**BENEFITS:**
- paid
- gain experience that fits around your studies.

**RED AWARD**

The Reading Experience and Development (RED) Award is the official University of Reading Employability Skills Certificate. The award involves 40 hours of activity, including gaining 35 hours of experience and 5 hours of training and development.

**BENEFITS:**
- gain experience
- stand out from the crowd.

As well as your degree, **work experience** and development opportunities really help give Reading students an advantage in the world of work. There are a range of initiatives available to help you get that edge!
**CAREERS NETWORKING**

**INSIGHT DAYS/SESSIONS**
Insight days allow you to gain insights into how a firm works. Meet and chat to everyone from trainees through to partners, as well as the graduate recruitment team. Throughout the year, external organisations host a range of events that are brilliant opportunities to develop your career, skills and employability.

**BENEFITS:**
- gain valuable insights with a small investment of time
- build professional networks.

**THRIVE MENTORING**
Connect with a professional mentor and talk through your career plans and aspirations, as well as getting practical help with CVs and interview prep!
Thrive is a career mentoring scheme for those of you who are in the penultimate study-year of your undergraduate degree or select post-grad departments.

**BENEFITS:**
- a year of collaboration with a professional
- test your aspirations and talk through ideas
- honest insights from professionals who have been in your position
- build networks
- boost career knowledge.

**YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN: REPRESENTATION**
Visit the Leadership Roles page for more information

**KEY**
- Local
- National
- International
- Online option
- Date dependent
- First Years
- Middle Years
- Finalists
- Post-Grads

**Networking** is the exchange of information and ideas among people with a common profession or special interest, usually in an informal social setting. Networking can widen your circle of professional acquaintances, highlight job opportunities and keep you abreast of news and trends in your chosen field.
**REPRESENTATION**

e.g. COURSE REPS/SABS

Nominate yourself for: Full-time Officers, PG & UG Student Voice Members, PG Senior Reps and Course Reps, UG Senior Reps and Course Reps, Part-time Officers, Student Trustees, Sports and Society Committees, and NUS Conference Delegates.

Some roles are paid and some are voluntary.

**BENEFITS:**

- develop real-life transferable skills
- presentation skills and self-confidence
- time-management
- network and build relationships.

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**PAL LEADER**

PAL Leaders facilitate the learning of students and help guide them through the module by heading activities and group discussions in weekly sessions.

PAL Leaders do not teach, lecture or give out the answers. They help students feel comfortable sharing and learning from each other. Full training is provided.

**BENEFITS:**

- develop real-life transferable skills
- presentation skills and self-confidence
- facilitation, coaching and time-management skills
- demonstrates altruism
- it counts towards the Red Award.

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According to recent research, 62% of employers say that they look for graduates with practical management and leadership skills. Undertaking a **Leadership role** during your time at Reading provides you with a chance to develop your leadership style in advance of graduating.

**YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN:**

**STAR MENTORING**

Visit the Volunteering page for more information

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- Local
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CAREERS
VOLUNTEERING

RED AWARD
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BENEFITS:
• gain experience
• stand out from the crowd.

YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN: PAL LEADER
Visit the Leadership page for more information

RUSU VOLUNTEERING
RUSU have a range of volunteering opportunities from student-led projects, external charity projects and challenges.

BENEFITS:
• transferable skills
• often flexible
• demonstrates commitment and altruism.

EXTERNAL VOLUNTEERING
There are a huge range of volunteering opportunities outside of the University to investigate. Alongside finding your own, we update our page regularly with available opportunities.

BENEFITS:
• transferable skills
• often flexible
• demonstrates commitment and altruism.

STAR MENTORING
STaR Mentors are current students that are committed to helping others and genuinely want to make a difference to a new student’s start at the University of Reading. Open to UG, IFP and PG International students.

BENEFITS:
• gain volunteer experience
• opportunity to help others
• transferable skills
• hours count towards the RED Award.

There is often a great deal more to volunteering than you might think. Volunteering can be defined as working for the benefit of others and developing personal skills, without monetary gain.

KEY
First Years 1
Middle Years 2
Finalists 3
Post-Grads PG

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