



Student Life End of Term Newsletter



University of
Reading



Welcome to your end-of-term Student Life Newsletter. In this edition we will be covering:

- COVID-19 updates: Collect free Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) on campus this week
- Travelling away from Reading at the end of term
- Teaching & Learning in the spring term
- Spring and Summer term timetables
- Student Services over Christmas
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- Love Actually Christmas film screening
- Library update - end of term
- Be Honest - What do you think about RUSU?
- Level Up Your Learning with LinkedIn Learning
- Racial Justice in Teaching and Learning
- Information round-up - latest events, blogs, and more!

We would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas period from everyone at the University of Reading.

Stay up to date, download the [UoR Student app](#), visit our dedicated [Essentials pages](#) for the latest student guidance & support, and follow our [social channels](#).

[Download the UoR Student app](#)



Collect free Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) on campus this week – extended opening hours

Many of our students travel away for the winter break, so in the run-up to the end of term, we have extended the hours of our home test kit collection point to make it as convenient as possible. You should ensure that you have enough to take a test before you return to Reading.

Regular testing remains extremely important to minimise the spread of COVID-19. We encourage all students and staff who are on campus to take a lateral flow test every day.

From Monday 6 – Friday 10 December the test collection site at the Library will be open:

Monday to Friday from 10:00 to 16:00.

The hours will revert to the usual hours of 13:00 – 16:00, Monday to Thursday until 16 December. If you require test kits after 16 December, they are available from [local pharmacies or can be ordered online](#). We hope to reopen the collection point on 4 January 2022.

The NHS PCR testing site will remain open in Car Park 11.

Please note that the lateral flow tests available at the collection point may be dual nasal tests. Please read the instructions carefully if you have not used these tests before.

For more information about lateral flow testing, please [visit the NHS website](#). If you have symptoms, you should self-isolate immediately and [order a PCR test](#).

[COVID-19 latest information for current students](#)



Travelling away from Reading at the end of term

- We strongly encourage that you take a COVID-19 lateral flow test before travelling away from Reading for the holidays. You can [collect test kits at the Library](#).
- If you have symptoms of COVID-19 you should isolate and take a PCR test in line with government guidance.
- If travelling outside the UK, we advise you to give careful consideration to travel plans over the Christmas period due to [possible sudden changes in travel restrictions](#), which could mean potential disruption and difficulties in returning to the UK.
- Our [Quarantine Support Package](#) is available to help with costs related to quarantine or testing when returning to the UK. However, please note that this support can be accessed on one occasion only. If you have used the support package already this year, any costs of quarantine or testing will not be covered by the university.

[COVID-19 latest information for current students](#)



Teaching & Learning in the spring term

Our intention for [the spring term](#) is to retain our approach of live in-person teaching and online asynchronous material (core course content such as pre-recorded lectures and guided learning activities). Online provision of classes that are held in person on campus will not continue next term. We do not currently have plans to revert to online provision for students unable to be on-campus from the start of term, so **you should make plans to be on campus by 10 January 2022 at the very latest.**

Please note: for students who have been studying 'at a distance' in the autumn term that unless you are individually advised otherwise your 'at a distance' mode of attendance will be changed to 'on-campus' on or around 15 January.

[Teaching and Learning in 2021-22](#)



Spring and Summer term timetables

Timetables for the spring and summer term are due to be released on Monday 13 December.

Your timetabled sessions are automatically added to your Outlook calendar and the Student app. You can also log in to CMISGo or Me@Reading to view your timetable. The [Essentials webpages have been updated with FAQs](#) to provide further information about your spring and summer timetable.

[Your timetable](#)



Student Services over Christmas

Over the Christmas period, the opening hours of our services will be changing. However, do not worry! You will still be able to access the help and support you need during this time. We have [provided a summary of the Christmas opening hours](#) of our services in our blog so know how and when you will be able to access the support you need.

[Student Services over Christmas](#)



Catering on campus over Christmas

As the Christmas season is fast approaching we wanted to let you know about the opening/closing times for the various catering outlets across our campuses.

Take a look at our blog '[Christmas campus catering](#)' which gives you all the information you might need.

[Catering on campus over Christmas](#)



Gingerbread competition 2021

The University of Reading's official annual Gingerbread competition is back for 2021 - Now is your time to get involved and get creative!

Last year we had lots of different submissions from castles to villages, now it's time for you to get your friends together to create something magical.

To join and pick up your **free gingerbread house kit** simply fill in [our sign-up form](#). Spaces are limited so make sure you sign up as soon as possible.

Once created you will need to submit photos by 20 December for judging. Winners will be announced via a virtual live gathering.

If you have any questions, please email: int.adv@reading.ac.uk

Good luck and happy creations!

[Gingerbread competition sign-up](#)



Love Actually Christmas film screening

You voted and we made it happen. Come join us for the festive film showing of Love Actually on the 20 December.

Location: Palmer G1

Time: Doors at 13:15, film starts at 13:30.

No booking is required.

If you have any questions please contact
Charlotte Hoekstra (c.e.hoekstra@reading.ac.uk)

We look forward to seeing you there!

[Student events](#)



Library update - end of term

The end of term is approaching fast, have you checked the vacation [Library opening hours](#) yet?

During Christmas vacation, the Library opening hours are shorter, so we encourage you to check our website before visiting. The following dates are particularly important:

- Thursday 23 December - the Library closes at 17:00
- Friday 24 December 2021 to Monday 3 January 2022 - the Library is closed throughout the University Christmas Closure period.

To ensure you have good access to resources over the break, vacation loan periods will apply as follows:

- Items from our Short Loan/overnight loan collection borrowed on Friday 17 December will not need to be returned until Tuesday 4 January 2022, **but they must be returned by 11:00 to avoid any charges.**
- 7-day loans borrowed from Monday 20 December will not need to be returned until the end of the closure period (Tuesday 4 January 2022).
- Standard loans (3-week loans) will naturally issue over the break from Friday 3 December. Term loans will update on 2 December so that any items issued then will not be due until Tuesday 22 March 2022.

Recalls will still apply until the University Closure begins so please remember to check your student email and return any recalls in good time.

Access to physical resources and study space will resume on Tuesday 4 January but if you're keen to get ahead in your studies over the break, here are a few things that you might like to join in with:

- [Reading Challenge](#) December's theme is Classic Fiction. Try out one of our 19th or 20th Century classic reads! If you're a speedy reader and didn't do the challenges in the previous months, take a look and see if anything catches your eye or make your selection for the New Year.
- [Study Advice](#) Catch up on the webinars and videos that the Study Advisors have created. There are tips and sound advice on everything from essay planning to how to develop skills in critical thinking and writing.
- Fancy finding out how to create your reference lists using a bibliographic management tool? Take a look at the guides produced by the Academic Liaison Librarians on using [Endnote or Mendeley](#) - both are highly effective ways to ensure accurate referencing for all your assignments.
- Have you explored *all* of the recommended databases for your course yet? Take a look at the guide to [Databases by subject](#) and try out an electronic resource that you haven't used before.
- Or how about catching up on some of the 'further' or 'suggested readings' for your course? If you've already tried that, get a head start on your reading for the spring term.

We encourage you to make the most of the Christmas vacation by spending quality time with family and/or friends and send our best wishes for a well-deserved and wonderfully restorative break. If you want to get going on your learning over the vacation, we hope these suggestions will help.

Library opening hours



Be Honest - What do you think about RUSU?

We'd love your honest feedback all about the experience you've had at University and where you think there might be opportunities to make improvements. And, if you complete the survey* there's a chance you could win £150!

[Complete the survey here.](#)

It will take 10-15 mins to complete, and as a thank you for your time you will have the opportunity to enter a prize draw with a top prize of £150 and runner-up prizes of £100 and £50!

All of your answers will help us to know what's important to you and how we can help you and other students in the future get the most out of your university experience. Thank you!

*The survey is run by Red Brick Research, an independent research agency, on behalf of Reading University's Students' Union. Your responses are anonymous. If you have any problems accessing the survey, please email info@redbrickresearch.co.uk.

What do you think about RUSU?

LinkedIn Learning Courses



Level Up Your Learning with LinkedIn Learning

In case you missed it, LinkedIn Learning is available to current University of Reading students – [activate LinkedIn Learning](#) by entering your University email address, then complete the UoR Single Sign-On page with your usual username and password. Start enjoying unlimited, free access to thousands of courses from top industry experts in Business, Creative and Technology domains today.

If you opt to connect your LinkedIn profile you can display course completion certificates, or simply aim to improve your Digital Literacy with an extensive library of Microsoft and other popular software packages, all delivered on-demand, wherever you are – including via the Apple or Android app once you've activated your account.

For more information, check out the [LinkedIn Learning page](#) and get started with the [How to Use LinkedIn Learning](#) course!

It has been a long year and we are all looking forward to some well-earned holidays. Whether it is self-reflection on lessons learnt for the year, re-charging your batteries, or just having the time to look at ushering a new and improved you, LinkedIn Learning has plenty of useful resources:

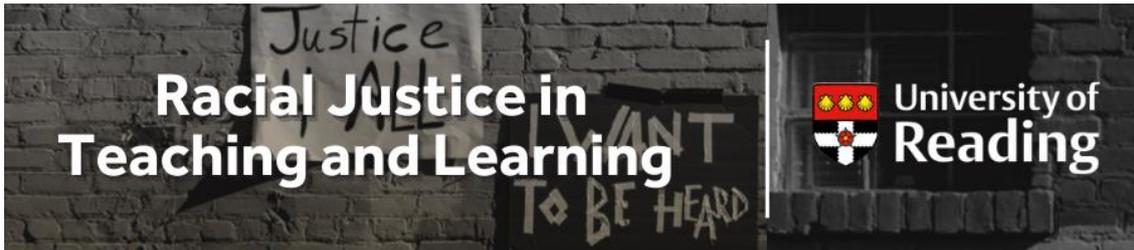
Top 10 Skills to have on your LinkedIn Profile

1. [Communication Foundations](#)
2. [Problem Solving Techniques](#)
3. [Operational Excellence Foundations](#)
4. [Business Analysis Foundations](#)
5. [Microsoft Office: First Steps](#)
6. [Project Management Simplified](#)
7. [Master Confident Presentations](#)
8. [Marketing Foundations](#)
9. [Customer Service Foundations](#)
10. [Leadership Foundations](#)

Why not listen to some of the soft skills courses as 'podcasts' while you run errands, do chores or take a brisk walk around campus? There's much more than just digital and career content, check out some of their courses for enhancing mental well-being, such as:

- [Winding Down: Get a Better Night's Sleep \(53m\)](#)
- [Meditations to Change Your Brain \(2h 29m\)](#)
- [How to Manage Feeling Overwhelmed \(43m\)](#)
- [How to Slash Anxiety and Keep Positivity Flowing \(27m\)](#)
- [How to Train Your Brain For Happiness \(54m\)](#)

Be inspired to learn something outside of your studies, and set yourself up for success in 2022!



Racial Justice in Teaching and Learning

We are delighted to share that on 24 January we will be launching the *Racial Justice in Teaching and Learning* journal with a physical exhibition and opening event. This is the culmination of many months of brilliant work from the entire University of Reading community.

In the same week there are several other stimulating opportunities to engage with the topic of race and identity available to staff and students:

- **A free film screening** of Jordan Peele's award-winning film 'Get Out', accompanied by a panel discussion and Q&A regarding the film's themes, on 26 January.
- **The launch of *Between The Lines***, a discussion space for staff and students that uses cultural media as a springboard for discussions about race and allyship.
- The announcement and showcasing of our new ***Inclusion Consultants***: paid student partners working with us to enhance the inclusivity of teaching and learning.

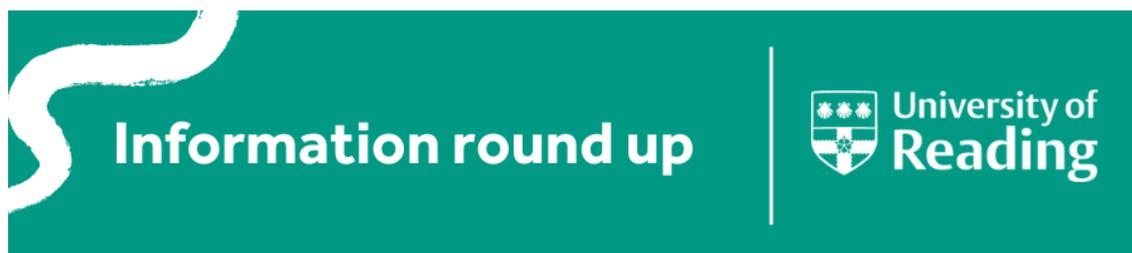
These achievements are underpinned by the creation of new digital articles that will support students to engage with our work on inclusion and contribute to the journey laid out in the Race Equality Review. These will be signposted from each event, and from new custom bookmarks that will be printed and distributed to attendees.

We ask for your support by:

- Saving the date of 24 January 2022 to attend the launch of the racial justice journal exhibition in the Library.

Keep following [UoR Student Life](#) for more information coming very soon.

[Follow UoR Student Life for updates](#)



Events

- [Student events](#)
- [UoR Music Concert](#) | 9 December, Doors 19:00 | St Luke & St Bartholomew's Church, Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LH

- [Christmas movie screening of 'Love Actually'](#) | 20 December 13:30-15:30 | Palmer G10
- [What's on this Christmas?](#)

Latest Blogs

- [Student Services over the festive period](#)
- [The History of Gingerbread Houses by Lara Brittain](#)
- [Collect free LFTs on campus this week – extended opening hours](#)
- [International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2021](#)
- [Get Your Hygge On from Counselling and Wellbeing](#)
- [Meet Student Services – The Student Financial Support Team](#)
- [2021 Gingerbread Competition](#)
- [Together this Christmas: UoR Music Christmas Concert](#)
- [Meet Student Services – The Counselling and Wellbeing Team](#)
- [Navigating university as a doctoral student by Florencia Botta](#)

Finally, we wish you a happy festive period, we will be back in touch in January 2022 for everything you need to know in the spring term.

UoR Student Life

Keep up to date with the latest information by downloading the [UoR Student app](#), visiting the [Essentials pages](#), and checking our [social pages](#).



