

Student Life Mid-term Newsletter



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

- Meet Student Services
- Manage your finances with Blackbullion
- Learn about Study Advice Support
- Get involved in Green Festival
- STaR Mentors helping you settle into University life
- Earn while you Learn with Campus Jobs
- Discover the Red Award
- Getting the most out of your Library
- Welcome Survey 2021
- Black History Month
- Japanese Film and Culture Programme
- Information round-up/events

Remember to 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](#)

Meet Student Services #UoRStudentServices



This term Student Life is running a campaign so you can get to know Student Services a little better, including the services behind the title, and the people behind each of the teams.

We will be introducing the individuals behind the teams on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), The [Student Life blog](#) and via the large screen on the Carrington building. Make sure you are following us to find out more!

Take a look at the first post all about [Sedtin Wan in the International Student Advisory Team](#).

Follow the **hashtag** [#UoRStudentServices](#)

Sedtin Wan

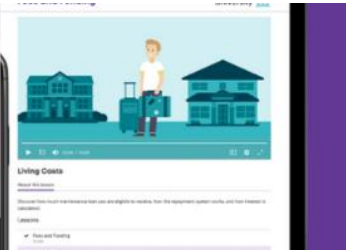
International Student
Advisory Team



#UoRStudentServices

[Meet Student Services](#)

Join Blackbullion



Manage your finances with Blackbullion

Learn financial skills and get money smart with Blackbullion, a free to use student platform all about student money.

[Blackbullion](#) offers lots of educational courses and resources to get money smart, including how student loans are repaid, how to budget and how to invest, plus challenges to help you reach your financial goals: creating a budget and sticking to it or saving more money.

Set up [your account today](#) to access online courses and tools.

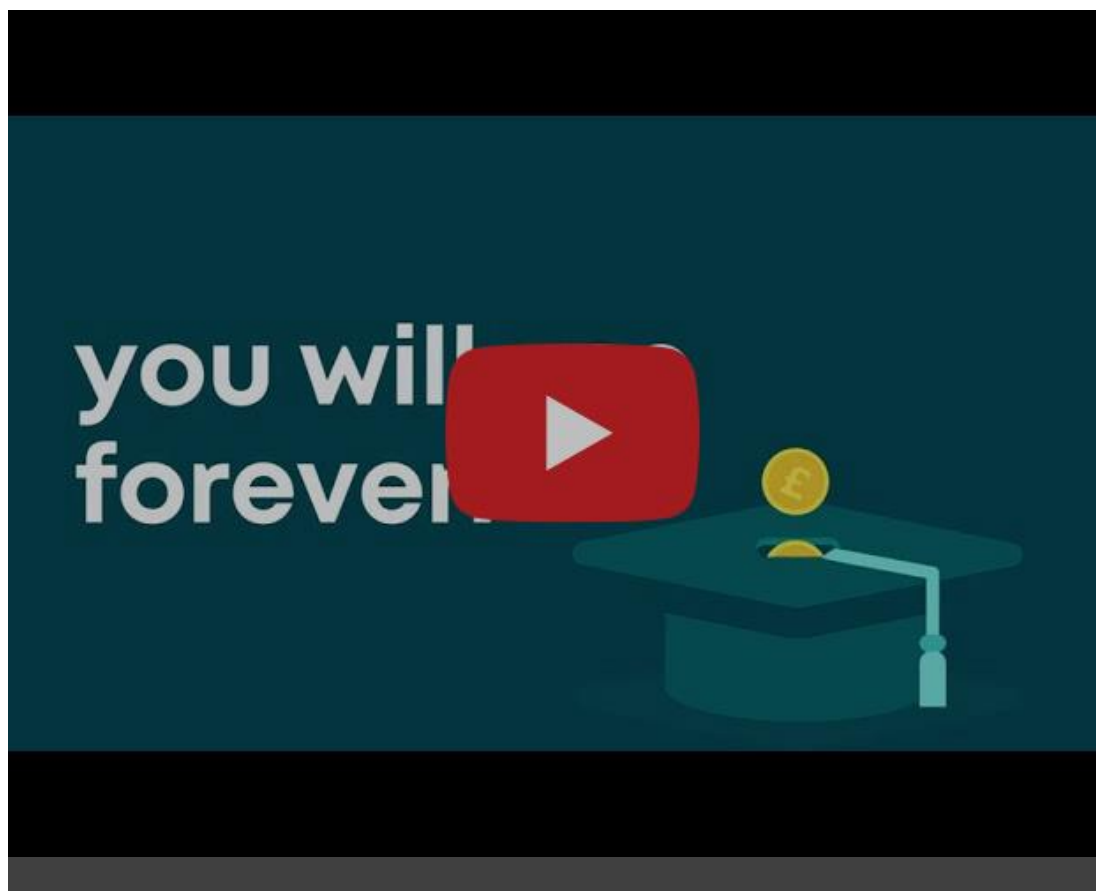
For more resources available to you visit the [Money Matters](#) page on Essentials.

The Student Financial Support Team

The Student Financial Support Team are available to provide advice and support on money-related matters, whether it's regarding your tuition fee or maintenance loan, bursaries and awards or advice on how we can support you if you are experiencing unexpected financial difficulties.

If you wish to speak to a member of our team with your financial questions or a query about using Blackbullion, please email studentfunding@reading.ac.uk.

[Blackbullion](#)



Study Advice



Learn about Study Advice Support

Whether you're looking to get that 1st, or seeking some tips to manage your studies more effectively, Study Advice is here to help.

If you want a refresher on referencing or advice on academic writing, you can check out our Study Advice short [videos and guides](#). Our short videos offer advice on all aspects of academic skills, from critical note-taking and academic reading to essay writing and presentation skills.

If you have maths as part of your course and need help with some of the mathematical concepts, check out our [maths support](#) guide. It contains an extensive range of worksheets, e-resources and video tutorials to help you practise and develop your mathematical and statistical skills.

You could also book yourself onto one of our weekly [webinars](#) on areas such as structuring essays, avoiding plagiarism and critical thinking. If you've missed our webinars so far this term, don't worry it's not too late to catch up. We're re-running these, alongside some new sessions like '*making the most of your feedback*', in Week 6. So while you're sitting at home, take just an hour out of your day and pick up some quick tips on studying effectively and writing university level assignments.

For those of you who'll be on campus during Week 6, we're running our 'great big drop-in': a place and space for you to get on with your assignments

on a Wednesday afternoon, with 1-2-1 advice on hand, if you need it. Find out more about our [webinar programme and book](#).

We also offer lunchtime drop-ins (on the ground floor of the Library Mon-Friday 1-2 pm) and bookable [1-2-1s](#), if you want to discuss your areas for development in more depth.

So, if you're seeking study success, get the advice and support you need with [Study Advice](#)

[Study Advice](#)



Get involved in Green Festival

Green Festival is a programme of events organised by the University in collaboration with RUSU and the local community to celebrate Green Week/[COP26](#).

[Events this year include:](#)

Green Festival Showcase

Come along and meet lots of local environmental and sustainability groups, find out what you can do to help the fight against climate change and lower your carbon emissions. Attendees include Reading Hydro, Reading

Community Energy Society, Reading Friends of the Earth, Select Environmental, Reading Green Wellbeing Network amongst many others.

Cycling event in Palmer Quad

Visit Dr Bike for free bike maintenance, find out about free cycle training and low-cost bike hire. Campus Security will be present to give advice about bike security and offering discounted D locks.

Online webinar 'Saving energy in your home'

How to save energy in your home while making financial savings and protecting the planet in the long term.

Photography competition

Submit your photos under the theme of 'Sustainability across campus and within student life', for your chance to win one of five £10 vouchers to be used within the food outlets across campus.

and more!

[Sustainability News:](#)

Green Flag

Our Whiteknights campus has won its [11th Green Flag award](#) in a row. The Green Flag award recognises well managed green spaces and is a great testament to the hard work and dedication of our grounds team. The campus is home to over 2076 different species of plants, birds, mammals and insects!

Decarbonisation Project

The University has been awarded a £50,000 grant from Salix Finance to undertake a heat [decarbonisation study for the Earley Gate](#) side of Whiteknights. This study will enable the University to prepare for future capital grant bids and accelerate our progress towards a low carbon future.



What is a STaR Mentor?

A STaR Mentor is a current student who helps new students with their start at university. A bit like a buddy service, your mentor is there to answer any questions you may have and to provide you with an insight into what university is all about. The Student Transition at Reading (or STaR) scheme is made up of volunteer students who have received training from the university on how they can help YOU get the best out of your experience.

All undergraduate students and International Foundation Programme students automatically receive a STaR mentor. You should have received an email in your inbox just before you started at Reading from your very own STaR mentor. They will have been matched with you based on what you are studying or the department you are studying in.

“It’s nice to talk to someone ‘on the inside’ before you arrive who can give you tips and shortcuts that would take you the whole year to figure out’ New student

A STaR Mentor can:

- Introduce you to student life & support you with your start at university

- Answer questions about university
- Provide more information about your course
- Talk through any worries or concerns you may have about university
- Direct you to clubs and societies and help you to find like-minded people
- Help you settle in

If you are new and you haven't yet quite found your feet do check and see if you have a STaR mentor. If you are unsure if you have a mentor then please email us at starmentors@reading.ac.uk and we can find out for you.

Would you like to be a STaR mentor?

If you would like to become a STaR mentor in Autumn 2022 then please fill in this [expression of interest form](#). You are not committing to anything at this stage but will be emailed a short application form in February 2022.

“There was very good training. The people leading the scheme helped create a friendly atmosphere where you felt like you could ask questions and seek help if you were stuck. Additionally, the weekly emails made me feel supported and connected to the scheme.” Student STaR mentor.

For more information on anything STaR mentor related head over to our [STaR pages](#) on Essentials.

[STaR Mentors](#)

Campus Jobs



Earn while you Learn with Campus Jobs

Campus Jobs is exclusive to University of Reading students. We provide jobs to students within academic schools and departments of the university, like Student Services and Marketing. Each year over 2,000 students work through Campus Jobs, working a massive 175,000 hours and earning a combined £2.2million.

Why get a Campus Jobs job?

- Earn money – all Campus Jobs positions are paid
- Make friends – get to know students on other courses or outside of your hall
- Get to know the university better – see another side of campus and meet staff members
- Get experience – great for when you come to apply for internships, placements, and grad jobs

Ok, I'm interested what should I do now?

Head to the [Campus Jobs portal!](#) We are currently advertising for:

- [Admin Support x 1](#)
- [Calling Campaign Ambassador x 10](#)
- [Masters Student Ambassador x 50](#)
- [Scholars Mentor x 100](#)

- [Enhanced Learning Partner x 1](#)

We add new jobs to the portal every week, so if there isn't something you like keep checking. You can also follow us on social media for the latest Campus Jobs news:

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Campus Jobs](#)

RED Award



Discover the Red Award

Whether you have been at the university for a few years or you are a new student there is a chance you may have come across the RED Award but you've not quite been sure what is involved or what you would need to do in order to achieve it. Below is handy information if you would like to find out more:

What is the RED Award?

The RED Award is the official employability skills certificate at the university. It is here to help accredit and recognise your participation in extra-curricular activity and will help to boost your employability by developing your skills and

encouraging you to broaden your experience.

What do I have to do?

To complete the RED Award you need to do 40 hours of extra-curricular activity and this is broken down into the following parts:

- 5 hours of training and development: These are workshops/webinars outside of your course that help with professional and personal development. For example, Careers sessions, Life Tools sessions, Study Advice sessions and online courses!

- 35 hours of Experience: This could be part-time jobs, work experience, internships, insight days, volunteering or a mixture of all of these activities! (The only specification is that you must do at least one hour of volunteering as part of the 35 hours).

Is it recognised?

Yes! When you complete the award you will receive a certificate and it is added so your diploma supplement annex – so it is officially recognised by the university.

Employers also value this type of award on applications from students so it will help you stand out from the crowd when making applications.

Can I use activity previously completed?

Yes – you can backdate any activity you have completed since you started at the university. Therefore it is definitely worth thinking about any hours you may have already completed!

How do I sign-up?

If you are interested in signing up for the award please go to the RISIS Portal, navigate to the 'Actions' tab and you can join the award from there.

To find out more please visit: www.reading.ac.uk/redaward or email red@reading.ac.uk.

This journey and all these activities have been greatly helpful to me. They changed my mindset and strategy regarding my skills, employability and my professional and personal development. All these hours have made me more confident, prepared, and organised (RED Award student 2020-21)

[Red Award](#)



Getting the most out of your Library

It's wonderful to see so many students using the Library! It feels good to welcome you all 'back to normal'.

Remember to bring your campus card when you visit the Library. You need to scan it at the gates, to borrow items and to print, make scans and photocopies. You'll also need your campus card to scan in at the keypad on the outer door if you are coming to the Library between midnight and 8:00.

If you missed the Library induction webinars (online seminars) that were on offer during Welcome and Week 1, a [recording of the webinar](#) is now available on our [YouTube channel](#). The [Information for new students](#) LibGuide remains available via our website too. It's well worth a look to refresh your memory of how to find and access our resources and services.

We have lots of other Library and Study Advice sessions on offer too, all designed to help you get the most out of your time at university. If you're getting assignments underway, you'll find a range of support to get the most from your reading and study. We can also advise how to manage your references with Endnote or Mendeley. Workshops for these reference management tools can be booked via RISIS; visit our [Library Training and events](#) LibGuide for further details.

If you can't attend any of the forthcoming sessions check out our online guides on [citing](#) and [managing references](#). Both have been extensively updated and improved to provide detailed, step by step guidance on all the quirks of referencing.

We hope these training events and resources will help you feel thoroughly supported through the journey from novice to expert! If you have any questions about referencing or any other training needs, [contact your Academic Liaison Librarian](#).

New! Quick queries hour – ask your Librarian!

We're very excited to announce that from Monday 25 October, we are offering an additional hour of support every weekday lunchtime (13:00 - 14:00). Visit the Study Queries desk, located on the Ground floor of the

Library, and ask a Librarian whenever you have a quick question that needs an urgent answer, and we'll help you to find the information that you need.

[Library](#)



Welcome 2021



We hope you have had a great start to your time at the University of Reading.

The Welcome team would love to hear how your Welcome and start at Reading went. We have created a [survey](#) to see what you thought of the week and to get your valuable insight!

The survey is open until 7th November and you can **enter a competition to win one of four £100 Amazon** vouchers once you have completed the [survey!](#)

[Welcome Survey 2021](#)

Black History Month



Over Black History Month, the Student Life channels have been filled with a large range of content ranging from blogs and posts from our Student Engagement Ambassadors, highlighting events happening throughout the university and Reading and weekly quizzes about different Black History topics.

Here is a preview of some of the content we shared on our [Student Life blog](#) and Student Life [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) channels:

- Weekly “Black Icon of the week” posts by our Student Engagement Ambassadors, Dal and Adeorite.
- An Instagram takeover by our Student Ambassador, Dominique, about how to stay in touch with your culture while at university.
- A blog about [supporting Black Mental Health](#).
- A blog by our Student Engagement Ambassador, Faith, about [good books to read during Black History Month and beyond](#).
- A blog by our Student Engagement Ambassador, Kitan, about [the importance of Black-owned businesses and where to find some in Reading](#).
- And much, much more!

If you are interested in finding out more about the content we created over Black History Month, head over to our channels where you will be able to find the diverse range of content we created.

Ensuring that our channels continue to be representative of the diverse student community is a priority to us, so we will be continuing to create similar content throughout the year. Let us know if you have any ideas about what topics or themes you want to see covered on our channels by emailing us at studentcomms@reading.ac.uk.



RBF JAPAN 2021: Celebrating 100 Years of Japanese Cinema at the Reading Biscuit Factory

As Reading's brand-new independent cinema and arts venue, Reading Biscuit Factory are delighted to announce '**Japan 2021**': a six-week-long celebration of Japanese cinema, art and culture, from October 30 to December 8 at their venue in Reading town centre!

Supported by the BFI and National Lottery, the programme includes a rich and diverse line-up of films, events and workshops **in partnership with the Department of Film, Theatre and Television at the University of Reading**, Queer East Film Festival, **RUSU Japanese Society** and Hyper Japan. Whether you're a Japanophile, world cinema lover, die-hard Kurosawa/Ozu fan, or new to Japanese cinema, there's something for everyone at the Japan 2021 programme so do attend, share and spread the word!

Full details of the programme and booking information on the [Reading Biscuit Factory website](#).

[Student Events](#)

Information round up



Events

- [Student events](#)
- [Black History Month 2021: Open Mic Night](#) | 29 October
- [Life Tools: Settling in, getting to know others](#) | 29 October
- [Operation cup of tea](#) | ongoing
- [Study Advice - Avoiding Plagiarism](#) | 10 November
- [Built Environment Careers Fair](#) | 9-11 November
- [Armistice Day service](#) | 11 November

Latest Blogs

- [Thrive Mentoring - Connect with a professional mentor and talk through your career plans and aspirations](#)
 - [Promoting social mobility through The 93% Club](#)
 - [Being Othered – Microaggressions and cultural impact by Ana Mateu Alvaro](#)
 - [National Mentoring Day – STaR Mentors](#)
 - [Become a Student Partner – Apply now](#)
 - [Show Racism the Red Card Day 2021](#)
 - [New student? Take our Study Smart course and get a head start](#)
 - [Making your money last](#)
 - [Get money smart! Join Blackbullion](#)
 - [Support at The University of Reading](#)
 - [Keep your bicycle secure at UoR](#)
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Keep up to date with the latest information by downloading the [UoR Student app](#), visiting the [Essentials pages](#), and checking our [social pages](#).



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