

# Student Life Spring Newsletter



University of  
Reading



Happy New Year and the start of a new term. We hope you had time to take a break over the Christmas period.

In this edition of the newsletter we will be covering:

- UoR Student Life Instagram
- Covid-19 Updates
- You're Invited! Promoting Racial Justice in Teaching and Learning
- Opportunity: Apply to be an Inclusion Consultant
- New year, new timetable: Download the UoR Student app
- Module Selection advice
- Get off to a good start in the new year with Study Advice
- You make good things happen
- Your Library this term
- Welcome back to RUSU
- Get to know The Student Progress Dashboard
- The University of Reading Travel Survey 2022 is now open!
- Information round-up

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](#)

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## UoR Student Life Instagram

UoR Student Life is all about you, our current students, supporting and helping you to succeed at university.

We run a number of different communications channels to give you the latest news, information, events and student advice - from students to students.

Our [UoR Student Life Instagram](#) is definitely one to follow. Every day we share something new - advice, info, student and society takeovers. Yesterday we had the Vegetarian and Vegan Society takeover, go check it out now on our 'Societies' highlight and learn all about the society and Veganuary. There are lots of great things we are doing for you so take a look and give us a follow to keep up to date!

To make the most of your time with the University of Reading, download, follow and subscribe to the University of Reading [social media and other channels](#) for news, events, important information.

We can't wait to see what you think!

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[UoR Student Life Instagram](#)



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## **COVID-19 Updates**

As part of our control measures, we're asking that you take a test every day that you come on campus. You can pick up free lateral flow testing kits from our collection point at the Library from 13:00 to 16:00, Monday to Thursday.

Please don't come to campus if you are showing any symptoms of COVID-19, no matter how mild, and take a test straight away. Remember that many people experience symptoms of the omicron variant that are very similar to a normal cold.

If you do test positive for COVID-19, please let us know by using our [online form](#). For more information, visit Essentials.

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[Essentials - COVID-19 Updates](#)

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## You're invited: Promoting Racial Justice in Teaching and Learning



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### You're Invited! Promoting Racial Justice in Teaching and Learning

This month we have several exciting opportunities and events relating to diversity, inclusion, and racial justice.

Please see below and sign up for whatever you can!

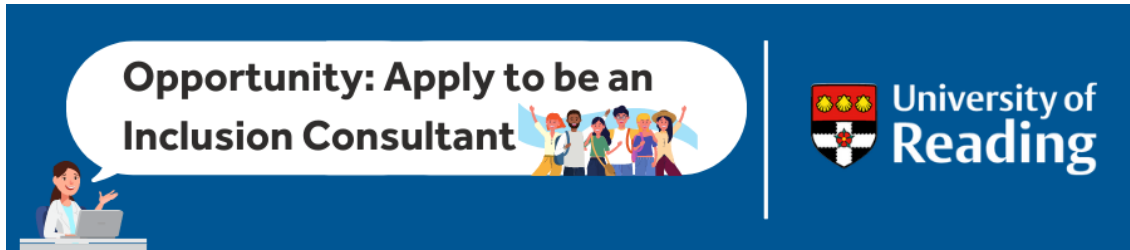
- [Sign up](#) for the free film screening of Jordan Peele's award-winning film 'Get Out' on 26th January.
- [Register](#) for the launch of Between The Lines, a discussion space for staff and students that uses cultural media as a springboard for discussions about race and allyship, beginning 27 January.
- From 24 January, visit our thought-provoking exhibition in the library foyer, showcasing the Promoting Racial Justice in Teaching and Learning journal.
- Download the new journal Promoting Racial Justice in Teaching and Learning. A diverse collection of pieces drawing on the knowledge, talents and lived experiences of staff and students on the theme of racial justice in teaching and learning. [Download the RJTL journal](#).  
View our [racial equality resources](#).

To find out more, keep up to date and join in follow UoR Student Life via [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or via the hashtag #UoRTalkingRace.

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[#UoRTalkingRace](#)

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## **Opportunity: Apply to be an Inclusion Consultant**

Are you passionate about diversity and inclusion? Are you interested in improving the experience and celebrating the success of your fellow Black, Asian and minority ethnic students?

Contact us about a paid, flexible new student role!

We are looking for passionate, enthusiastic students from these ethnic backgrounds to become Inclusion Consultants, working in schools and departments to help make them inclusive and engaging for minority ethnic students. You will talk to other students to understand their needs and advocate for changes that promote academic excellence.

This will help The University of Reading to be a truly inclusive place where all students can thrive.

Full training is provided, and you will be expected to work for two hours per week from February until the end of the academic year.

We aim to be flexible so please contact us to find out how the role can work for you.

The closing date is 20<sup>th</sup> January but interest should be registered as soon as possible.

[Apply now.](#)

If you would like to express interest or find out more, please email Martina Mabale De Burgos [martina.mabaledeburgos@reading.ac.uk](mailto:martina.mabaledeburgos@reading.ac.uk).

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[Apply now](#)

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### **New year, new timetable: Download the UoR Student app**

The new term is time to get organised and informed with the official University of Reading Student App.

The app has been designed specifically for Reading students and brings

together key services, including your timetable, a personalised Me@Reading news feed, instant notifications as well as quick access to support information and location services at the touch of a button.

Just visit the app store on your compatible device, hit download, and log-in with your existing student username and password.

[Download the app now.](#)

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[Download the UoR Student app](#)

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### Module selection advice

Any requests to select or make changes to Spring or Summer term modules can be made during weeks 1 and 2 of the Spring term. The deadline for any requests is **Friday 22 January 2021** at 12:30 pm.

Requests can be made through the “Ask us a Question” button on your RISIS portal or by emailing [moduleselection@reading.ac.uk](mailto:moduleselection@reading.ac.uk).

To learn more about how to select modules and what you need to know:

- Visit our [dedicated Essentials pages](#) which include a step-by-step guide and frequently asked questions.
- [View the infographic](#) to help you learn more about the process.

If you get stuck and can't find an answer to your question on the above resources, you can:

- Email [moduleselection@reading.ac.uk](mailto:moduleselection@reading.ac.uk) for help making your selections
- Use the [Ask us a Question](#) function on RISIS (also called 'helpdesk')
- Contact [risis@reading.ac.uk](mailto:risis@reading.ac.uk) if you are having problems accessing the portal

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[Module Selection](#)

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### Get off to a good start in the new year with Study Advice

A new year, a new term: now is the time to look back on how your first term at university went, to think about what aspects of your studies you need to work



on. You might need to improve your approach to essay planning or your proofreading skills. It could be that you need to get better at finding the right sources, or at taking notes in your lectures. Perhaps it's something more general like time management and getting organised. You may be happy with how you did in your first term, or you may not have achieved what you'd hoped to. Either way, Study Advice are here to help you develop your key academic skills.

Right now, the two most important things for you to do are to reflect on your experience of the last term and to read your assignment feedback. Check out our helpful guidance on reflective learning and [interpreting feedback](#) on the Study Advice website. You will also find many other videos and guides providing advice on all aspects of academic skills, from [time management](#) and academic reading to [essay writing](#) and exam preparation.

You could also book yourself onto one of our weekly [webinars](#), running all spring term every Wednesday from 14:00-15:00 via MS Teams. For the first half of this term, our webinars will focus on final year dissertations; and in the second half, we will focus on improving your essay grades and exam revision. As with the last term, we plan to run a special programme of webinars during Week 6, including another big drop-in for final-year students completing their dissertations, 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 Monday-Friday 13:00-14:00) and bookable [1-2-1s](#), if you want to discuss your areas for development in more depth.

So, get your new year off to a good start by letting [Study Advice](#) help you improve on your first term!

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## Study Advice

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### **You make good things happen**

This week we're showcasing the positive differences that working together, your suggestions and feedback make. In partnership with you we've made good things happen. Explore what we've achieved in our stories [on Essentials](#).

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## You make good things happen

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## **Your Library this term**

Happy New Year from the Library. If you are a January starter, see our top recommendations for new students in the [Information for new students guide](#). For those of you who are returning to campus, we'd like to share the following reminders about how to make the most of Library services, resources and facilities.

### **Opening hours**

24/6+ opening hours resumed on Sunday 9 January - full details of the opening hours can be [found on our web pages](#).

### **Study areas**

Study spaces are available on all floors of the Library. Do you need individual silent study space? If so, go up to the 5th Floor, our dedicated silent study area. All other floors contain both quite individual spaces and room for group work.

We are currently operating at slightly reduced study space capacity, due to an increased need for ventilation throughout the building. This means that at peak times, such as over the lunch period, it can be more difficult to find a study space. If you experience any difficulty finding a space, visit [Essentials](#) to find out about additional study space on campus.

### **Support with your studies**

Do you need help with an aspect of your studies? Your [Academic Liaison Librarian](#) and the [Study Advisors](#) will be happy to assist. Take a look at the [Training and workshops](#) webpage for more information, links to guides, training materials and more!

### **Covid measures**

Please note - if you are using study space in the Library, we ask that you do not

move seating or remove tape from closed areas. Library study space has been carefully configured to comply with ventilation requirements in line with current health and safety measures in place. Please also remember that eating is not permitted in any Library spaces, except for the Library Café.

Finally, please wear a face covering, unless you are exempt, at all times when using the Library. This includes when seated in addition to when moving around and will help us all to stay safe, which means that we can continue to be open through this time.

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[Library opening hours](#)

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## Welcome back to RUSU

There's lots going on this term for you to get involved in and we are so excited to welcome you all back to RUSU!

Refreshers is on Wednesday 19 January. This is your opportunity to chat with clubs and societies and then try out a taster session during give it a go week (starting Monday 24 January). Why not [have a look now](#) and think about which opportunity you might like to try?

Our leadership elections are also coming up with nominations open from 17 January to 4 February. This is your opportunity to choose who you think should lead RUSU for the next year by electing our Full-time Officers, Part-time Officers, Student Trustees, and Undergraduate Senior Reps.

Thinking of nominating for a role? Fantastic! You can find all of the role descriptions, as well as a timeline for the elections, [on our website](#). Alternatively, you can [get in touch with one of our Full-time Officers](#) to talk about the roles in more depth or email us at [elections@rusu.co.uk](mailto:elections@rusu.co.uk) for more information.

Student Voice is on Monday 31 January at 18:00. This is open to all students and is your chance to help set the direction of your students' union, to discuss ideas and hold your student officers to account. Change It, your [online platform for submitting ideas](#) is always open for you to share ideas for change. The Big Student Update is also coming up on 1 March where our Full-time Officers look back on last year and share what's coming up in the rest of the year ahead.

And, of course, there is [lots going on](#) in the venue including Union nights, Quiz & Karaoke and the [cultural show](#) on Friday 4 February.

Look forward to seeing you all soon!

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[What do you think about RUSU?](#)

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## **Want to know how you are progressing in your studies? Get to know The Student Progress Dashboard**

The Student Progress Dashboard is a tool in RISIS for any UoR student that allows you to view your assessments grades with their relative weightings. You can view your grades for your overall degree, or view them split between individual modules. This is a great way to track how you are doing and see if there are any areas you need to improve to reach your target.

As well as seeing the grades you have achieved, you can also set a goal for your target grade. You can choose to share your goal, which can help when discussing your progress with academic staff, allowing them to tailor the conversation to help you reach your aspirations.

[Find out more about the dashboard](#)

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[Student Progress Dashboard](#)

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## The University of Reading Travel Survey 2022 is now open!



### The University of Reading Travel Survey 2022 is now open!

As part of the ongoing monitoring and reviewing of travel at the University of Reading, Sustainability Services is undertaking a University-wide travel survey during January 2022. This survey will be used to help inform future travel planning, so we are really interested to hear about how you travel to/from the University, and your views of transport provision.

When you have completed the survey, you will have the chance to enter a prize draw to win a £200 Eurostar voucher or one of five £10 catering vouchers!

Please see the [prize draw terms and conditions](#).

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[University of Reading Travel Survey 2022](#)

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## Information Round-Up & Events



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### Events

- Exhibition: Promoting Racial Justice in Teaching and Learning | 24 January - 24 February 2022 | Library foyer
- Film screening 'Get Out', accompanied by a student-staff panel discussion and Q&A | 26th January 15:00-18:00 | [Register now](#)
- *Between The Lines*, an informal discussion group for staff and students that uses cultural media as a springboard for stimulating conversations about race and allyship | 27th January 13:00-14:00 | [Register now](#)
- [Social Impact Careers | 18 -28 January](#)
- [Life Tools events](#)

Check out our ['Whats on'](#) pages to find more events.

## Latest Blogs

- [You make good things happen!](#)
- [New Year: have a plan from Study Advice](#)
- [Dry January by Adeorite Adele-Adewole](#)
- [Promoting Racial Justice in Teaching & Learning](#)
- [Logging in to your University Systems: Keeping you Safe](#)

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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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