

Date: 26 August (UG), 27 August (PGT) 2021

Subject: Your teaching and learning this autumn

Dear NAME,

We are really looking forward to welcoming you for the start of the new academic year. It is such an exciting and important time for us all.

Whether you are an undergraduate or PGT student, you'll be taught through a combination of face-to-face on-campus sessions and online learning activities as part of our [blended approach for 2021/22](#).

We want to make sure you know what you can expect, so in this message there is information about:

- when you will get your timetable
- the autumn term teaching and learning experience, including details of the blend of face-to-face and online teaching
- studying at a distance
- the support available to you throughout your studies.

When will I get my timetable?

You will get your personal academic timetable for the autumn term on Monday 6 September (or in the week prior for those courses that start early). This will show all of your scheduled teaching, both on-campus and online.

In advance of receiving your timetable, your School will be in touch with more information about what to expect from your programme and preparing for your studies this term.

What can I expect from my autumn term teaching and learning experience, including face-to-face teaching?

We are delighted that most students will be joining us to study on campus this term and we have been working hard to prepare to welcome you.

For both undergraduate and PGT students, we are aiming to provide a minimum of one-hour in-person teaching on campus a week per 10-credits. Typically, students take 60 taught credits in the autumn term, which means you should experience at least 6 hours per week of on-campus sessions across the term. Many students will have more, but in a small number of cases, it may be less. Some more information about why this might be the case is set out at the end of this email.

Your face-to-face teaching will be complemented by timetabled online activities and untimetable activities that you complete in your own time. This includes things like watching screencasts and videos, taking online quizzes, or essential reading, as well as undertaking work needed to prepare for upcoming classes and for assessments across the year.

What if I am studying at a distance?

For the small number of students who will continue to study at a distance temporarily this term because of COVID-19 issues, you'll see your scheduled online teaching sessions in your academic timetable with

the location 'ONLINE-LIVE'. Your Academic Tutor or Head of School will be in touch after enrolment with more details about how to access your online sessions.

Further information about what to do if you think you won't be able to be on campus at the start of term is [published on Essentials](#).

Support for you throughout your studies

You'll be supported throughout your studies through regular meetings with your Academic Tutor and with access to our wide network of advice services such as Study Advice, Maths Support, Liaison Librarians, and the Student Welfare Team.

If you are arriving to the UK from an [Amber or Red list country](#), to support you to cover the costs of quarantine we are pleased to confirm [final details](#) of our Quarantine Support Package. We recommend that you consider arriving early so you can complete this before teaching starts on your programme, or earlier if you'd like to join Welcome Week activities from 20 September. If you are living in Halls of Residence and traveling from an Amber country, please contact acmo@reading.ac.uk as you may be able to move in before the start date of your contract.

Please continue to check your emails regularly and keep an eye out for the follow up email from your School. We will also be keeping the [Essentials](#) webpages updated with the latest information including details of the COVID-19 measures that will apply on campus when you arrive, so please check these pages regularly too.

In the meantime, if you have any general questions about next term, please contact your Academic Tutor or [Support Centre](#) (or Henley Helpdesk or ISLI Admin Office).

Best wishes,

Julian

Professor Julian Park
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education & Student Experience)

Why do on-campus hours differ?

One of the big advantages of studying at Reading is that you have huge flexibility to tailor your programme. This means that almost every student is on a unique path, and so the actual on-campus hours are likely to be different for different students.

There are a number of reasons why your hours on campus may vary:

As in any year, the number of scheduled teaching hours varies depending on the subject, module choices and study level and, in some subjects, between autumn and spring term.

Some subjects (particularly those with practicals) have more sessions scheduled in some weeks than in others.

Things like field trips and tutorials are not always formally timetabled.
Students undertaking a dissertation or research project often have fewer timetabled hours.

If, once you have seen your timetable, you have any questions about your face-to-face teaching, please contact a [Support Centre, Henley Helpdesk or ISLI Admin](#).