



Hello and welcome to your start of term student life newsletter. In this edition of the newsletter we will be covering:

- Support over the exams period
- 'Ramadan, Revision & Respect by Aliya Emiabata'
- Student Progress Dashboard – monitor your academic progress and set goals to succeed
- Placement opportunity - become our next Student Outcomes Coordinator
- It's now time to apply for Student Finance!
- Just a few more days to have your say in UK undergraduate surveys
- This term at RUSU
- Library updates
- Reading bus boost discounts
- Starting or completing the RED Award in the summer term
- How to gain early access to a THRIVE career mentor as a first-year undergraduate
- Message from Digital Technology Services (IT) – Wi-Fi in the Library
- 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



Support over the exams period

At Student Life, we are aware that exam periods are often the most stressful times of the year, even for the most academically gifted among us. We're here to remind you that we have a number of support services and resources that are available at every part of your University of Reading journey, and to highlight the ones that may be the most beneficial to you right now.

Exam Pages on Essentials

The [exam pages](#) on Essentials are a great place to start if you're unsure of anything exam-related. These include information about extenuating circumstances, special exam arrangements, FAQs and revision tools.

Student Support Coordinators

Each school has a [Student Support Coordinator](#) who is dedicated to helping you with any queries you may have about your course or other aspects of student life. They're available to talk about all issues impacting your student experience, including teaching, learning, and wellbeing, and can even help with things like submitting extenuating circumstances (EC) requests.

The Welfare Team

The [Student Welfare Team](#) are here to support you with any personal difficulties you are facing - this could consist of signposting you to specialist support and advice services, giving advice or information, or even just talking things through with you. You can contact the welfare team via email (studentwelfare@reading.ac.uk) where you can ask to arrange an appointment with a welfare officer, use their drop-in service in the Carrington building (**Monday – Thursday – 13:00 -16:00, Friday – 10:00 -16:00**), or even phone them at **0118 378 4777** (Monday – Friday between 10:00 and 16:00).

Counselling and Wellbeing

The [Counselling and Wellbeing team](#) work to help students through a wide range of issues. They offer support including one-to-one appointments (either face to face, on the phone or over Teams), groups, workshops, online guidance and onward referrals to other support services, and is open to all registered students (undergraduate or postgraduate) at the University, free of charge. You can contact them at 0118 378 4216 (Mon-Fri between 9:00 – 16:00), or email them at counselling@reading.ac.uk.

Reading University Student Union Advice Service

The RUSU Advice Service offers a wide range of support (academic, housing, money, debt, benefits), and their [academic support pages](#) are hugely beneficial during the exam season as they offer everything from tips to prepare, to results appeals assistance. You can contact them by completing their [contact form](#), or by emailing advice@rusu.co.uk.

Study Advice Guides

Another good place for exams guidance is on the [Study Advice Guides page](#). Here you can find exam tips, exam room strategies, and information on how to prepare for different types of questions.

Study Advice Webinars and Workshops

The Study Advice team [run webinars](#) throughout the academic year to support you with all aspects of your study. From revising for your exams to preparing for your dissertations, these friendly webinars are designed for you to get some tips from the experts and put your studies on track for success.

The University Blogs

The University blogs are an excellent resource, especially during exams. There is plenty of content catered to [how to prepare yourself](#), as well as [reminders](#) and even [to-do lists](#).

We wish you good luck with your exams this term!

Exams and assessments 2022



Ramadan, Revision & Respect by Aliya Emiabata

Inclusion Consultant, Aliya, offers advice on how to balance revision and fasting during the holy month of Ramadan and gives suggestions for Non-Muslims on how to support your Muslims friends, colleagues etc during this time.

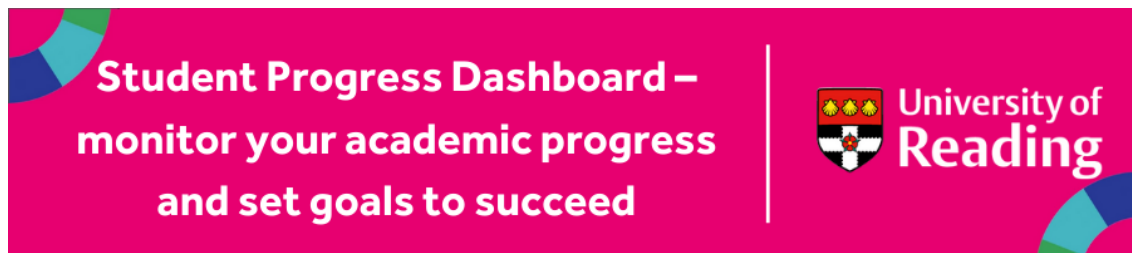
Rushing to finish the third bottle of water before the sun rises, dealing with the mood swings of that one family member at suhoor (if you know, you know) and arguing about who must do the burdensome washup after iftar, is but a small glimpse into the Ramadan experience. But Ramadan is much more than refraining from food and water for a period of time. It's a lot deeper than that!

[Read more](#)


[Celebrating Eid al-Fitr 7,000 miles from home: story of two Muslim Master's students](#)

Got a student experience you would like to share? Write a blog or do a takeover for UoR Student Life. Contact us for more information: studentcomms@reading.ac.uk.

[Read the full blog](#)



**Student Progress Dashboard –
monitor your academic progress
and set goals to succeed**



**University of
Reading**

The banner features a pink background with a decorative circular graphic in the top-left and bottom-right corners, composed of segments in blue, green, and yellow. The text is white and bold, and the University of Reading logo is positioned on the right side.

Student Progress Dashboard – monitor your academic progress and set goals to succeed

The Student Progress Dashboard is a tool on RISIS free and accessible to every University of Reading 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.

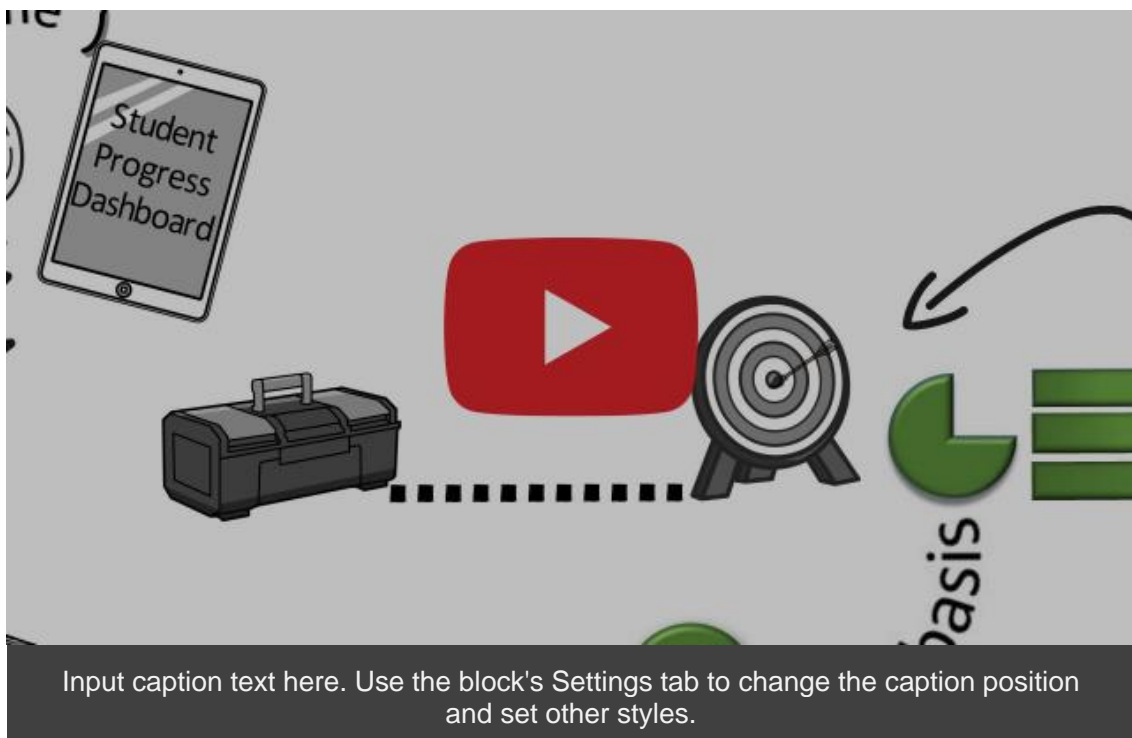
As well as seeing the grades you have achieved, you can also set a goal for your target grade. For example; *If you are aiming for a 2:1 or a First, you can set your higher and lower percentage goal between 60 and 69 for a 2:1, or 70+ for a First.* Once this goal is set, it will show within your dashboard, and any marked assessments will be coloured according to whether you have met this goal or not.

You can choose to share your goal, which can help when discussing your progress with an Academic staff member, allowing them to tailor the conversation to help you reach your aspirations.

There are some handy links and tips on the other dashboard tabs such as study advice and your academic liaison librarians.

[Read more about The Student Progress Dashboard.](#)

Student Progress Dashboard



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Placement Opportunity!  

Become our next Student Outcomes Co-ordinator

 **University of Reading**

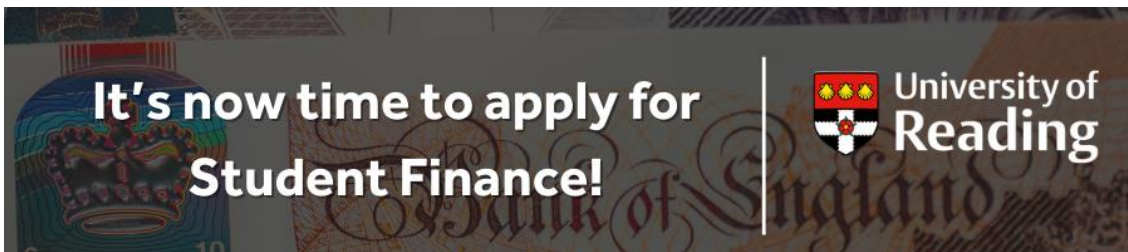
Placement opportunity - become our next Student Outcomes Coordinator

The University of Reading's Student Success and Engagement team is hiring a placement student who is passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion!


- **Location: Whiteknights Reading UK**
- **Closing date: 01/05/2022**
- **Salary: £20,600**

This is an exciting opportunity to help make the university a more inclusive place where all students thrive.

[Apply now](#)



It's now time to apply for Student Finance!

 **University of Reading**

It's now time to apply for Student Finance!

Applications for continuing undergraduate students for 2022 to 2023 are now open.

Don't wait - apply early to make sure your funding is ready for the start of your course in September!

Find out more at:

- [Student Finance England](#)
- [Student Finance Wales](#)
- [Scottish Awards Agency Scotland](#)

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.

Virtual appointments are available Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9.30 - 12:00.

[Book an appointment.](#)

We are currently unable to see students face to face (unless you have an urgent query) and in these circumstances, you should call the team on 0118 378 5555.

You can also access free online support for managing your finances by using [Blackbullion](#).

Money Matters

Just a few more days to have your
say in UK undergraduate surveys



University of
Reading

Just a few more days to have your say in UK undergraduate surveys

In your final year? Join thousands of students around the UK, taking part in the National Student Survey. Your feedback will be used to improve the experience of our current and future students and you could win VIP tickets to RUSU's 2020 Summer Ball.

Not in your final year? Have your say on your experience so far in the UK Engagement Survey. You could win a clever cuisine package for 2022/23 and have a 1 in 5 chance to win a pizza at Park Eat. Complete the UKES now. You will need to provide a username (your 8 digit Campus Card number) and the case-sensitive password (ReadingUKES2022).

[Undergraduate Surveys](#)



This term at RUSU

Relax with RUSU

Feeling apprehensive ahead of Summer Exams? [Relax with RUSU](#) from April 19th – May 31st and join in with our events programme designed to you de-stress!

With a programme including women's networking, coffee and chat, gardening, a petting farm and more, there's plenty to get involved with! Check out the [full schedule here](#).

Awards Season

We have the Societies & Sports Awards, Teaching & Learning Showcase **and** the Student Experience Awards coming up this month. There is so much to celebrate and we are incredibly proud to be part of such a supportive and hardworking community.

Student Voice & Representation

We also have Change It – look out on our social media and [website](#) for an opportunity to submit your ideas, Student Voice and Summer elections coming up!

Relax with RUSU



The University of Reading library updates

The start of the summer term signals a new chapter for the Library. This term, the Library can provide both 24-hour access and full seating capacity - that means [1500 study spaces](#) available!

Measures in place throughout the pandemic, such as wearing face coverings and socially distanced study spaces, have been removed. We've retained sanitisation stations and lone lift occupancy, and additionally, as part of ongoing good practice, we encourage you to test if you're feeling unwell and to follow [University guidance](#) on attending campus.

What's available from the Library this term? [24/6+ opening hours.](#)

We close at 21:00 on Saturday evenings and reopen on Sundays at 8:30 for the entire term.

Bank holidays included!

We'll be open throughout the bank holidays (Monday 2 May, and on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee dates Thursday 2 June and Friday 3 June). Keep an eye on our website for opening hours and information about services.

More choice of study spaces on campus.

As well as providing 1500 study spaces in the Library, URS remains available 8:00 - 18:00 Monday to Friday, as do the 24hr PC labs. See [alternative study spaces](#) for further details about other spaces on campus.

Got a quick query? Visit the Study Advice & Maths Support desk.

Visit the desk, on the Ground Floor of the Library, on weekdays between 10:00 - 14:00 for quick questions about your studies. You can also find details for your [Academic Liaison Librarian](#) on the Library website along with information about [forthcoming workshops](#) - online and in-person, 1-2-1 assistance with your studies and more. See the [website](#) for further links and details.

Need something else?

Remember, we're here for you so if you have any questions about your Library account, loans, or anything else to do with the Library services, please [get in touch](#) and we'll help you to stay on track.

Your Library team

Library opening times



Reading bus boost discounts

University campus card for student Reading Buses Boost discounts

Save up to 1/3 off your bus fare with Reading Buses Boost tickets with your university campus card.

All University of Reading students are eligible to buy Boost tickets and student discount fares for Reading Buses services.

Simply show your student campus card to the driver, ask for a Boost fare and get saving!*

You must show your student ID to the driver when you buy or use any Boost product, otherwise, you may be asked to pay the full adult price.

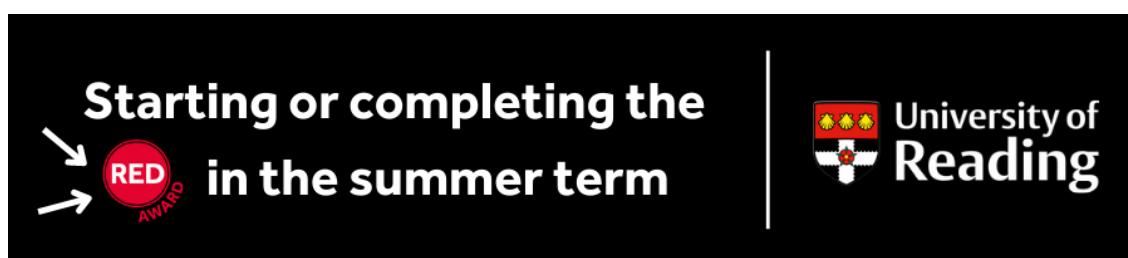
- £1.50 single trip - get anywhere in the [simplyReading zone](#)
- £2.70 unlimited, all-day travel - get anywhere in the [simplyReading zone](#)

Find out more about your local [University bus stops and services](#).

Planning to travel more frequently?

Find out what other options are available to you on the [Reading Buses website](#).

Reading Buses Boost discounts



Starting or completing the RED Award in the summer term

No matter what stage you are currently at with your studies, there is still the opportunity to take part in the RED Award!

If you are in your first year or second year you can get started now before continuing in the next academic year. If you are a finalist or postgrad, there will be opportunities for you to complete all the way until the end of June!

What is the RED Award?

The RED Award is the official employability skills certificate at the university. It helps to accredit and recognise participation in extra-curricular activity and boosts 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:

- 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).

Can I use the activity previously completed?

Yes – you can backdate any activity you have completed since you started at the university. Therefore you can think back to anything you have done since day one of your Welcome Week!

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.

Red Award



How to gain early access to a THRIVE career mentor as a first-year undergraduate

 University of Reading

How to gain early access to a THRIVE career mentor as a first-year undergraduate

We are inviting all **first-year undergraduates** to [register their interest in the THRIVE Mentoring Scheme](#) ahead of their second year.

THRIVE Mentoring allows you to be partnered with a professional who works in an area of industry you're interested in, they can support you practically with your CV and provide other career-related advice as well as offer you a chance to ask questions and network with your mentor.

If you would like the chance to let us know your preferences about the type of professional you would like to be matched with, you can sign up as a THRIVE Earlybird.

Registering as an Earlybird here will mean you have access to:

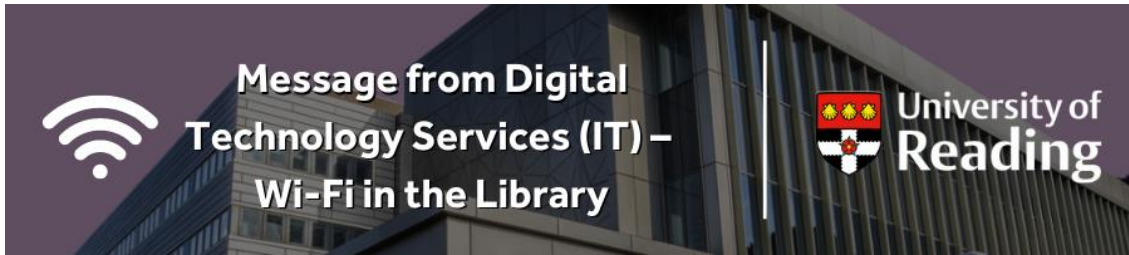
- First look at available mentors ahead of other students who are not early birds.
- Meet the Mentoring Team and ask questions you might have, as well as the possibility of Earlybird-only events and insights into mentors being recruited onto the programme.
- Early access to the compulsory Mentee Preparation Sessions (that count towards your RED Award) – attend one over the summer and be ready to be matched with your mentor as soon as you start your second year.

Our [THRIVE website](#) has more information, including 'What our students say' and all the resources you'll have access to.

Data shows that students who take part in THRIVE are 32% more likely to secure a job by their final year than students who don't!

You are welcome to email the team at mentoring@reading.ac.uk with any queries and we look forward to meeting our Earlybirds.





Message from Digital Technology Services (IT) – Wi-Fi in the Library

After weeks of investigating, troubleshooting and making changes, DTS has restored normal service to the Wi-Fi in the main Library at Whiteknights. We have upgraded existing Wi-Fi routers and installed additional routers in known black spots, and added extra Wi-Fi sessions so more people can be online in the Library at once.

The Library is a busy and popular area with many demands on its services, including Wi-Fi. Here are some ideas to help maximise your study time:

Before you come in:

1. Please check that your device is up to date. Trying to download updates will slow down your device.
2. Make use of offline playlists, and remember to bring noise-cancelling headphones with you so as not to disturb others.

While you are in the library:

1. If you don't need it, don't open it, whether that is programmes or browser tabs which will slow down your device.
2. Make sure you are not using your phone or other devices as a Wi-Fi hotspot. This interferes with the Library's Wi-Fi.
3. Streaming 4K videos hogs Wi-Fi bandwidth, and you won't get 4K on a small screen.
4. Be mindful of the people studying around you. Other study areas available:

Name	Capacity
Allen G10	25
Palmer 101	20
Palmer G09 (24 hours)	11
Agriculture GL20 (24 hours)	17
Meteorology GL68 (24 hours)	10

If you experience any problems, please log a call with the IT Service Desk, giving your location. This helps us to quantify the problem in different areas and document the facts.

Keep up to date with announcements by following us on Twitter [@UniRdg_IT](#), or in News on the Student App.

IT Services



Events

26 April, 13:00-14:00 | Refugee Stories: Interviews with refugees, Mondial
28 April, 13:00-14:00 | Imperfect Perfectionism, online
29 April, 10:30-12:30 | Bread-making workshop, The UoR Chaplaincy Centre
29 April, 14:30- 15:00 | Learner's mindset: prevent procrastination & prep for exams, online

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

Latest blogs

- [Celebrating Eid al-Fitr 7,000 miles from home: story of two Muslim Master's students](#)
- [Let's act now and reduce our food waste! – by Pok Lim Lai](#)
- [Career Smart – Take Control of Your Future](#)
- [Getting ready for the exam season! Top tips from the Study Advice team](#)
- [Placement opportunities – join the Student Success and Engagement Team!](#)
- [University campus card for student Reading Buses Boost discounts](#)
- [Ramadan, Revision & Respect by Aliya Emiabata](#)
- [Stressed? We've all been there – dealing with stress in university by Dal Huai](#)
- [Community Garden Week 2022 – What can I do? by Florencia Botta](#)
- [Support Over the Exams Period](#)
- [Focus on Money and Living Costs](#)

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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