Reading Bursary 2026/27

What is it worth?

For students starting their programme in 2024/25 or later the Reading bursary will be a cash bursary only of £1,700 per year of eligibility.

For students who started their programme in 2023/24 or earlier the Reading bursary will be a cash bursary only of £1,300 per year of eligibility.

Eligibility?

Starting your programme from 2024/25 onwards

A new student starting their studies in 2024/25 or later will need to meet both of the following eligibility criteria to be awarded the Reading Bursary:

1. Be registered on a full-time undergraduate programme with an assessed household income of up to £27,000 that is confirmed by their Student Finance Authority in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland entering in 2024/25 or later for year 1 of study, and;
2. Have a home address recorded on their RISIS student record at the point of completing online enrolment that falls within an area of low participation of young people progressing into higher education (POLAR4 or TUNDRA quintile 1 or 2) or be considered to be from an area of general disadvantage according to the governments Indices of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 or 2. Please note that for recipients of the University Care experienced and estrangement bursary the requirement to meet this eligibility criteria will not apply. If a student changes their home address after completing their online enrolment this will not be changed for the purposes of meeting this criteria in the current academic year.

Started your programme in 2023/24 or earlier

A continuing student who started their studies in 2023/24 or earlier will need to meet the following eligibility criteria to be awarded the Reading Bursary:

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1. Be registered on a full-time undergraduate programme with an assessed household income of up to £27,000 that is confirmed by their Student Finance Authority in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland or the EU, and;
2. Started a programme of study with the University of Reading prior to the 2024/25 academic year.

Students who are not eligible for the Reading Bursary

- Students receiving sponsorship from a third party
- Students directly continuing from one course to another (for example, from foundation degree or HND on to the final year of an honours degree)
- Students transferring in from another institution (in the year the transfer has taken place)
- Any student who is being charged less than £9,250 tuition fees (unless on a placement year or classroom based integrated foundation year). Including students studying the Foundation Degree in Children's Development and Learning Programme or Early Years Learning and BA in Children's Development and Learning Programme or Early Years Learning Students undertaking a postgraduate qualification – except postgraduate pre-registration healthcare courses
- Part-time students

What is the Reading Bursary?

The **Reading Bursary** is a University funded award; through the Reading Bursary scheme the University provides additional financial support to University of Reading undergraduate students registered on a full time programme based at the Whiteknights and London Road (UK) campuses from a low-income background and in respect of students entering Part 0 or 1 in academic year 2024/25 or later, they must also have a permanent home postcode (not term-time only) that indicates that they live in an area of low participation in higher education or an area of general disadvantage (the University defines this as postcodes falling within the latest IMD or POLAR4 or TUNDRA quintiles 1 or 2). The home address confirmed by the student at online enrolment will be used for meeting this requirement and cannot be changed afterwards.

Applying for the Reading Bursary

Eligible students do not need to apply for this funding. It will be awarded automatically to eligible students who meet the criteria above and give consent to share their financial information as part of their Student Finance Authority means-tested application. Eligibility will be assessed on an annual basis according to the eligibility criteria in place for that particular academic year.

Call 0300 100 0607 (England), 0300 200 4050 (Wales), 0300 100 0077 (N. Ireland) or 0131 244 5341 (Scotland) to check that you have given consent to share, you will need to state your Customer Reference Number.

Allocation Deadline

Any eligible student may be able to receive this funding. Bursary payments are made at several points during the year with the final allocation of bursaries for the 2026/27 academic year being made on **23rd April 2027**. Any student who has not made their finalised household income information available to the University at this point will not be considered for a bursary. Please note that the University will not award bursaries after this cut-off date or for previous academic years.

How, what and when a student will be paid

Cash Bursary

The cash bursary will be paid to eligible students in two equal instalments: the first payment will be in Semester 1 and the second payment at the beginning of Semester 2. Any student who has been assessed as eligible after the payment date will be advised by the Student Financial Support team of their interim payment date. If your confirmed household income changes between the first and second payment your entitlement may change.

Payments will only be made to students who are enrolled as current students at the time the payment is due to be made.

Receipt of the Reading Bursary funding will not prohibit you from applying for other University funds but please remember that the amount of cash bursary you receive may be taken into account as income for funding applications and in benefit calculations.

General

The information and eligibility criteria relating to the Reading Bursary applies for the 2026/27 academic year only and the University may amend the Reading Bursary (including financial support offered and eligibility criteria) in future academic years.

The University's decision is final. The University reserves the right claim back any funds already distributed in the case of administrative error:

The University will collect, hold and process data relating to the student for the purposes of administering the Reading Bursary. More information on how the University handles your personal data, your rights and further information can be found at: www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/The-Important-Stuff/Values-and-Behaviours/Data-protection.

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If you wish to make a complaint about the Reading Bursary you may do so by following the University's Student Complaint Procedure found here.

Any queries should be addressed to studentfunding@reading.ac.uk.