

Cohort recipients: All current students due to still be studying at UoR in 2024/25

Date: July 2022

Subject: Semester system changes and contractual update

Dear Student

I am writing to you to let you know about some exciting changes we are making to improve the student experience at the University of Reading.

Although many of these changes will not come into effect until the 2024/25 academic year, we are writing to share some important details on the proposals with you now, so that you understand how our planned improvements will take shape and how they will change your student contract.

In response to student feedback, we are making the following changes:

- Moving to ***an academic year based on semesters*** rather than terms, bringing Reading in line with other higher education institutions. From September 2024 the structure of the year will change from three terms to two semesters, with shorter assessment periods at the end of each. This will improve how courses are organised, facilitate assessment closer to the point of teaching, rather than all at the end of the year, and improve opportunities to study abroad or go on placements. You can see the dates for the 2024/25 academic year online on the [Essentials pages](#).
- Changes to ***modules and assessments***, so that workloads are more consistent across all modules and you have the right amount of assessment, spread out appropriately, and designed to allow you to demonstrate your knowledge in a way that is valuable for real life and professional contexts.
- Better use of ***technology-enhanced teaching methods***. You will continue to have a range of engaging, interactive sessions depending on your discipline and your teaching will continue to be primarily in-person. However, this will be provided alongside well-designed digital activities and resources that can allow you to study more flexibly and bring variety and interest to your studies.

Contractual changes

If you are still studying with us by the time these changes come into effect, some of them will amount to a change to your student contract from September 2024, in particular:

- the move to a semester system; and
- changes to the dates on which payments are due and when you become liable for Tuition Fees should you suspend or withdraw from your studies, as set out in the Fees Policy. An updated

Fees Policy is attached to this email, and it will apply from September 2024. The Fees Policy you received when you enrolled will apply until then.

The programme changes outlined above may also amount to contract changes, and we will share updated Programme Specifications with you in July 2023.

If you have any concerns or questions about the changes proposed, please talk to your School in the first instance. If you remain dissatisfied, contact our Student Complaints Team on studentcomplaints@reading.ac.uk. Read more information on the [University's complaints process](#).

What happens next?

We are taking the time to make sure this complex piece of work is done right and will keep you updated as progress is made. Until then, the [Essentials website](#) will contain everything we've confirmed on plans to improve the student experience at Reading.

In the meantime, you are hopefully enjoying a well-earned summer break and we are looking forward to welcoming you back to campus in September, for the next academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Elizabeth McCrum