

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

Date: 13 March, 2023

Subject: Exciting changes are coming to the University of Reading

Dear student

Right now, the University is working on a project that is due to bring about some changes to the way your studies will look and feel in future. You may have heard people talking about the Portfolio Review Project – or PRP – but not had much detail yet on what it means for students. Or this might be entirely new to you. Either way, [this video](#) introduction will give you a taste of what will change from 2024/25.

The PRP came about as a result of student feedback, information from the National Student Survey and broader research into best practice. This told us that some changes would address student concerns about module choices, timetabling and assessment, and help us to provide a rewarding and inclusive experience which sets you up for whatever path you choose to take after university.

The first difference you will notice is the change to the academic year. From September 2024, we will move from three terms to two semesters, which will enable us to address the issue of timing and bunching of assessments. With this new calendar there will be two periods of assessment – at the end of each semester – as opposed to just one at the end of the year. This will mean most people will be assessed closer to the time they are taught about a subject.

It will also improve how courses are organised and increase opportunities to study abroad or go on international placements.

Further changes we are making through the PRP will:

- Make course expectations and structures clearer and more consistent
- Give students confidence that the modules you choose will run and with less chance of timetable clashes
- Ensure you have the right amount of assessment, spread out appropriately, and designed so you can demonstrate your knowledge in a way that's valuable and applicable in the workplace
- Make sure our important work on decolonising the curriculum, inclusivity, employability and sustainability is fully embedded
- Enhance your learning experience through digital learning, ensuring our learning is inclusive and accessible to all our students

You are probably keen to know more about these positive changes and how they will impact on you and your personal experience. You are also likely to have queries, so we've added frequently asked questions and a bit more background on the project to the student Essentials website.

Once you've had a look through the information online, the best way to get a better idea of what it means for your course is to speak to someone in your School. You could also talk to your student rep or Academic Tutor. To keep up-to-date on the project's progress, make sure you check your University email

With best wishes,

Elizabeth McCrum

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