

Follow-up to returning international UG & PGT students

Subject line: Returning to campus in September: Advice for international students

Dear student,

Further to our recent email about our plans to welcome you back to campus in September, we are writing to all international students to provide further advice and information.

Your health and safety

Many of you will be living outside of the UK at the moment and we understand you may feel anxious about what it will be like when you return. The UK government is continuing to consult with health experts to respond to the ongoing pandemic and, while some restrictions have been eased recently, other measures have been increased where necessary. This includes [extending the self-isolation period](#) for those with symptoms from 7 to 10 days and increasing the situations in which face coverings must be worn. For the latest information and advice, please visit the [Gov.uk website](#). We will write to you again closer to the start of term to provide a more comprehensive picture of the current situation, to help you prepare.

For us at the University of Reading, our first priority is to protect the health and wellbeing of our whole community, while continuing to provide you with the best possible university experience. As outlined in our recent email, we are adapting our campuses to implement one-way systems, dedicated entry/exits for building, and additional hand hygiene stations. We are changing the layout of some spaces to increase space and introducing maximum capacity restrictions where required.

In addition to government requirements for wearing face covering, we are strongly encouraging that they are worn in all areas where maintaining a 2 metre distance may be difficult, including teaching spaces. Again, we will be in touch nearer the time to share more specific details about these arrangements.

Self-isolation (quarantine) upon arrival in the UK

If you are travelling to the UK from overseas, you should read the latest UK government advice about [what to expect when you arrive](#). You must self-isolate (also known as 'quarantine') for 14 days when you arrive in the UK, unless you have travelled from [one of the countries with exemption](#). This list may be changed by the government at short notice so please regularly check these links for the latest advice.

We will support students living in Halls with practical arrangements so you can self-isolate safely without the need to visit shops (which is not permitted).

If you are living in private accommodation, you should consider bringing essential items such as soap or hand sanitiser with you and arranging an online supermarket delivery of food and cleaning materials for shortly after you arrive. If you have never used an online supermarket delivery, you may wish to download an app for one or two of the local shops (for example, Asda or Tesco) and set up an account so you can easily place an order when you are ready. You may also wish to consider pre-ordering a selection of essential items such as bedding, towels and kitchen equipment – a number of companies provide 'starter packs' (such as [Unikitout](#)) and Amazon also sell [kitchen starter](#)

[packs](#) and bedding. Please note that we do not recommend or endorse these companies and we would recommend you conduct your own research before purchasing any items.

We are also developing a short online induction course, which can be completed alongside your academic studies while you are self-isolating. You can find your own path through this course, which will signpost direct you to many of the facilities and resources that are available on campus. Further information will be shared closer to the start of term.

Support for international students

We plan to run a 'Support our Students' scheme, through which you can be linked with a fellow student or member of staff, to chat over email or by video call. We will provide further information closer to the start of term.

We have also been continuing to run our popular Global Buddies social events online, including a recent origami session. These are friendly, informal events and provide a great opportunity to meet new people and perhaps even try something new. Keep an eye on our International Student Advisory Team's Facebook page to find out when future dates are announced.

If you have any queries or would like further support please contact our [International Student Advisory Team](#).

Halls of Residence

We are continuing to accept applications from returning students for our Halls of Residence and you can [make an application using RISIS](#). We have waived the security deposit requirement for new applications to Halls this year until payment of the first instalment of rent and we have also said we will consider waiving rent temporarily for those students who are delayed arriving by more than 14 days at the start of their contract due to circumstances beyond their control. For further information please visit our [Accommodation webpage on Essentials](#).

Advice for students with Tier 4 visas

We have published the latest UK government advice for students with Tier 4 visas on our [Essentials webpages](#). If you have any queries about your visa or immigration status please email immigration@reading.ac.uk.

Exam resits and retakes

Results from the April/May assessment period have now been published on your RISIS portal. We hope you are looking forward to starting the next stage of your programme, but if you have any questions about resits or retakes, we have published [specific advice for international students](#) on Essentials.

We hope this information has been helpful and you are looking forward to coming back to Reading. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact our [International Student Advisory Team](#).

Best wishes,
Elizabeth & Julian

Professor Elizabeth McCrum & Professor Julian Park

Pro-Vice-Chancellors (Education & Student Experience)