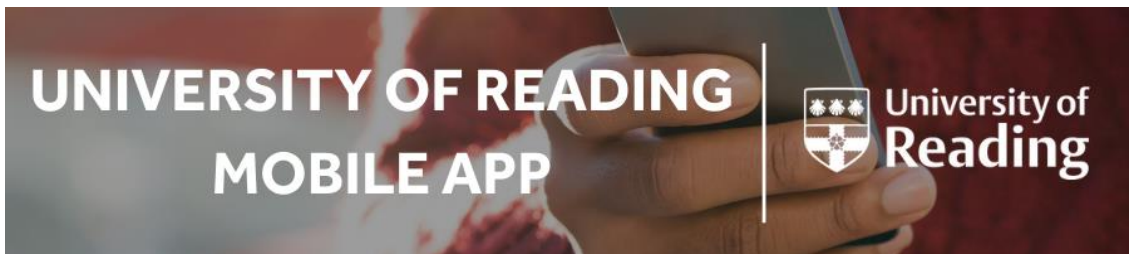




Welcome to **Student Life**, your regular email update on all the support available to you. Visit our dedicated Essentials pages with [details on a range of support services](#), or up to date information on [life at Reading this term](#).



Accessing all the essential information you need for student life at Reading is about to get much easier. The official University of Reading student mobile app will be available to all current students to download for free from android and iOS app stores.

The app has been designed specifically for Reading students and will bring together important digital services, Staying organised has never been easier. The first release of the app will deliver your timetable, personalised Me@Reading news feed, instant notifications as well as quick access to support information and location services at the touch of a button.

Currently in its final round of testing with students, the app will launch in March. Look out for the digital campaign on all student channels, including [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), and we will let you know when it is available to download.

We will continuously improve the app; to do so, we need your input. Please let us know if you would like to be involved in our Teams chat for students where you can feedback your experience with the app and feed into future development and forthcoming features. [Register your interest to give feedback.](#)



Over the last six months, the University of Reading's Student Financial Support Team has awarded **more than £350,000** from the [Student Support Fund](#) and [Digital Support Fund](#) to help students facing financial hardship.

Additional funding from the Office for Students means that further funds are available to help students. This money must be used to support students in hardship and be spent by **31 March 2021**.

Both the Student Support and Digital Support Funds are in place to support you and help when you need it most. If you could use the assistance of one of these funds, make sure you apply before the 31 March to access this additional money.

What are the Student Support Fund and Digital Support Fund?

[Student Support Fund](#)

The Student Support Fund is to help relieve unexpected financial hardship that might impact a student's participation in higher education – whether because of the pandemic or other factors. Awards from the Student Support Fund can be used towards unexpected living costs up to £1,750 (single student) or £3,500 (student with dependents), internet connectivity, specialist software, and IT-

related study equipment costs up to £500.

[Digital Support Fund](#)

The Digital Support Fund is a fund to help students with online learning and study costs. There are limited grants of £500 per student, designed to provide financial support towards internet connectivity, specialist software, and IT related study equipment costs. The £500 can be used as a contribution to buying a laptop and peripherals (mouse, keyboard, extra monitor, router, dongle etc.) or for paying broadband bills.

How do I apply?

More information about who is eligible for the [Student Support Fund](#) is available on Essentials, including details on maximum award levels. To apply for this fund, log into your [RISIS Web Portal](#). Go to the “Actions” menu and then click on “Financial Support”. From this page you will be able to read the guidance notes and click on the link “Begin/Continue application for financial support or bursary”. When you have completed your online application you will get an acknowledgment email sent to you.

Full information on the [Digital Support Fund](#) is also on Essentials, including a full [guidance note](#) on how to apply. Once you have read the guidance and checked you are eligible, you can [apply via the online form](#).



Are you interested in promoting **Racial Equality** in Teaching and Learning at the University of Reading? Get involved by submitting your contributions on Racial Justice in Teaching and Learning:

Submit your contributions

The University is developing an online collection of pieces on Promoting Racial Justice in Teaching and Learning.

We want to provide a platform for sharing experiences, insights and best practice, to promote discussion and encourage action by bringing together pieces across our community on race (in)equality in teaching and learning. We are asking students to contribute their ideas on the following themes:

- What is being done/needs to be done to promote race equality in teaching and learning?
- What is being done/needs to be done to decolonise teaching methods/curricula?
- How are/could/should students be involved in attempts to promote race equality in teaching and learning?
- What impacts have initiatives to diversify/decolonise the curriculum had so far?
- Your opinion on the importance of this or what the University of Reading should do to progress.

This could be an individual or group submission. Once agreed by the panel, your work will be published and used to help the university move forward. You should include:

- **The title of the piece**
- **The name and email address of the author(s)**
- **Your school**
- **A reference list (where relevant).**

For any queries or to send your submission, please email Eileen Hyder (e.m.hyder@reading.ac.uk) by **Monday, 1 March**.



Library loan extensions:

Good news from the library which will hopefully alleviate any concerns you may have about library fines during the current lockdown period.

To help you stay at home and cut down on non-essential trips to the library, we are extending the due date on all library books for the second time. This time, **loans will be extended** until **Sunday, 28 March** and the extension will apply to all loan types: standard, 7 day, and short loan. We'll extend everything already out on loan and all new loans will go to this date too.

Return your items in the book drop, located to the right of the main entrance. The recall process is still in place for items that are in demand. So do continue to place holds on anything you need and we will try to get the book back for you.

If you do get a recall notice for a book you have on loan, the due date will be brought forward as normal, and you'll need to return it in the usual way via the external Book Drop. If you have any difficulty doing this, please get in touch with us on 0118 378 8770 or library@reading.ac.uk for advice and further information.

Online Study Advice and Academic Liaison support:

Feeling a bit overwhelmed or struggling to fit everything in? Worried about keeping on top of your dissertation? **Study Advice** and the **Academic Liaison Librarians** have prepared several useful resources to support you in your studies. Visit '[Study Advice webinars](#).' Transcripts for the sessions have [also](#)

[been made available](#). Alternatively, watch the guidance on '[Accessing Resources Remotely](#)', created by the Academic Liaison Librarians. You can also follow the [Library Twitter page](#) for more information on resources and details of upcoming webinars.

FIRE PROCEDURES - DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?



It is a legal requirement that all people who are lawfully on any premises that falls under The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 are instructed and trained in what to do in the event of an emergency. As we cannot conduct physical fire drills at present due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever that we all take time to learn the procedures and watch this [short video](#) to help understand the fire procedures of the University. Please note, this format does not replace a physical fire drills, and when it is safe to do so we will continue with our fire safety drill programme.

Familiarise yourself with:

- The nearest fire exit, follow the fire exit signs to familiarise yourself with the fire exit route.
- The fire alarm break glass call point, these are generally located at every staircase or
- final exit door.
- The fire action notice, read what it says noting the fire assembly point location.
- The nearest fire extinguisher, only use this if you are trained to do so.
- On discovering a fire, raise the alarm by pressing on the fire alarm call point to break the glass.

- Dial 999 and ask for the Fire Service providing details of the address and fire.
- Exit the building by the nearest available fire exit and wait at the fire assembly point.
- If you require assistance to evacuate from the upper floors make your way to the nearest available refuge, follow the instruction notice and wait for assistance.

What to do on hearing the fire alarm

- Leave the building immediately by the nearest available fire exit.
- Do not stop to collect all your belongings. You are permitted to take only items immediately available which will not delay your evacuation.
- Do not re-enter the building.
- Wait at the assembly point until you are informed by the Evacuation Officer or University Security that it is safe to return to the building.

Important information about COVID-19

- Fire evacuation procedures take precedence over COVID-19 one way systems.
- Face coverings must be worn at all times.
- Maintain social distancing while waiting at the assembly point.
- Once it is safe to return to your building, the COVID-19 arrangements must be followed.

Please [watch this video](#). If you have any questions please contact the University Fire Safety Adviser firesafety@reading.ac.uk.



Internships are where higher education meets employment; they allow you to gain experience working in an organisation while studying at university.

[The Reading Internship Scheme](#) offers undergraduates the opportunity to undertake 4 – 8-week paid internships with professionals. The RIS team source internships for you to apply to – view our current vacancies on our [webpage](#) and on [MyJobsOnline](#). If you are undertaking an unpaid internship you may be eligible for a bursary to help support your living costs. Find out more and [view our eligibility criteria](#).

[Forage](#) is an online platform offering virtual internships, including tasks set by large organisations accessed through self-paced modules. It is open for all students and graduates and there is no application process. Simply [sign up](#) and pick the internship you want to do. Finalist, Prinal Shah outlines the [benefits on our webpage](#).

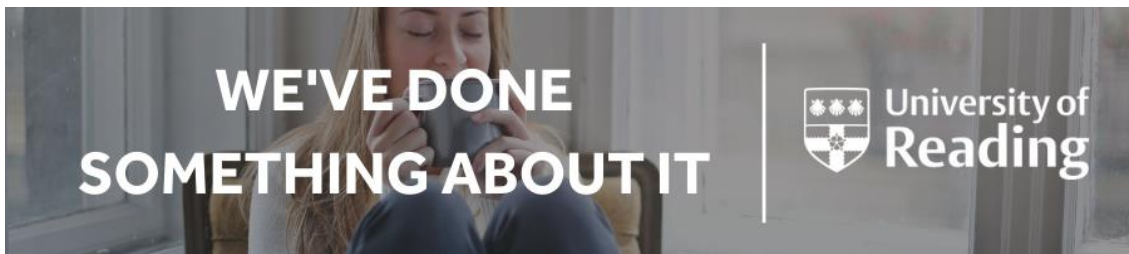
[Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme \(UROP\)](#) is a research internship scheme exclusively for penultimate year students, so if you are a second year (or third year on a four-year course) then this is your opportunity to gain experience supporting world-leading research! UROP students are paid a bursary (£1,320) for taking part in a six-week project over the summer and projects are available across a range of disciplines. [Projects for 2021](#) will be advertised from Monday 22 February at 12pm.

[More information about finding an internship.](#)



The Student Progress Dashboard is an important study tool on RISIS for you to use throughout your time at Reading. [Log on to RISIS](#), click on the 'Information' page and then the 'Programmes and Modules' tab. You will then see the link to access your Dashboard. [This short video](#) shows you how to access and navigate the Dashboard pages. *If you require a transcript please follow [this link](#).*

- [Essentials – Student Progress Dashboard page](#)
- [Videos on the dashboard](#)
- [FAQ's](#)
- [Further information](#)



We are always looking for opportunities to work with you to help shape what we do here at Reading. This year we have done lots of things to better your experience, including creating sustainable 24 Menus of Change Principles for our catering, a new virtual events diary, establishing the new role of School Directors of Academic Tutoring, and relaunching the RED Award with two more levels to encourage deeper engagement and progression – RED Award Plus and RED Award Xcel.

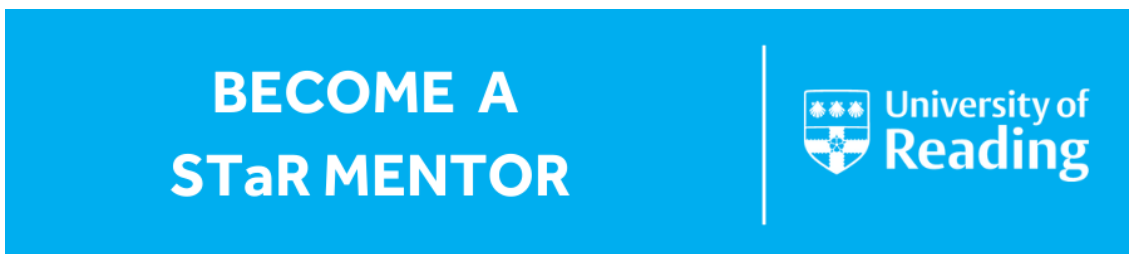
[Explore more about what we have done this year](#) and [take a look at our videos of students](#) and staff who have worked together.



Some important information for you to note on your return to Reading:

- What is happening: From February 2021 weekly food waste collections will commence in Reading, operated by Reading Borough Council.
- Why is this happening: The aim is to recycle at least 50% of household waste. This has a huge impact on our environment when food waste is sent to landfill, as it rots and produces methane a greenhouse gas which is harmful to the environment.
- What is Reading Borough Council doing: Small silver 5 litre indoor caddies with liners have been provided, together with either a 23 litre or communal bin for outdoor use. Full instructions of what can and cannot be put inside are provided with the caddies/bins.

For full details go to www.reading.gov.uk/wastechanges or call 0118 937 3787. To find out more about what you can recycle from other household waste items please visit: www.reading.gov.uk/recyclingathome. Help protect your environment.



Would you like to volunteer to help support new students with their start at University, improve your CV and gain new skills?

If you are available for one or two hours a week in the **Autumn term 2021** and a **non-finalist** undergraduate, international foundation programme or a postgraduate international student please head over to our [STaR pages](#) and apply now!

Like a “buddy” scheme, new students are matched up with current students, usually by course or department, who answer questions and provide new students with an insight into university life. The only thing you need to know is what it is like to be a student!

You will be trained and supported throughout, the volunteering hours count towards [the RED Award](#) and you will gain new skills that will look great on your CV.

“It's nice to know I was able to help new students and guide them if needed. I know I needed them during my foundation year. Furthermore, the skills I learnt are a good addition to my CV and applicable to any future jobs.” Student STaR mentor 2020.

“There was very good training. The people leading the scheme helped create a friendly atmosphere where you felt like you could ask questions and seek help if you were stuck. Additionally, the weekly emails made me feel supported and connected to the scheme.” Student STaR mentor 2020.

Still not sure?

See how other students benefited by watching this short [FILM](#)

More questions?

Then email starmentors@reading.ac.uk

For a better insight into what exactly a STaR mentor will do check out the [STaR webpages on Essentials](#) and [this short film](#). Feel free to email starmentors@reading.ac.uk with any questions.

[Apply to be a UG or IFP STaR mentor.](#)

[Apply to be a STaR PG International mentor.](#)

