Unexpected changes to services may be necessary due to the ongoing Coronavirus situation.

The Disability Advisory Service will continue to deliver key services and these may be offered remotely.
The Disability Advisory Service at the University of Reading are a team who provide confidential information and advice to students studying or intending to study here. If you have a disability, specific learning difficulty, long term medical or mental health condition we can work with you to make reasonable adjustments to enable you to participate fully in academic life.

There are currently over 3000 students registered with the Disability Advisory Service who have a disability or long-term health condition that impacts on their ability to study.

If you think you might require support, but are not sure if you are eligible, please get in contact with us so that we can discuss your needs.

You will always be in control of the support and adjustments, and your information is only passed on to other university teams such as your academic department, with your consent.
THE NUMBERS
A breakdown of students registered with the Disability Advisory Service in 2020/21

943
Mental health conditions
Including anxiety, depression, eating disorders, bipolar disorder and personality disorders

148
Physical impairments
Including wheelchair users and other physical impairments

1221
Specific learning difficulties
Such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia and dysgraphia. ADHD is also included in the number of supported students.

117
Sensory impairments
Deaf students and those who are hard of hearing, and students who are visually impaired.

662
Chronic Health Conditions and Other
For example: students with multiple conditions or Chronic Health Conditions such as diabetes, chronic fatigue syndrome, Crohn's disease and arthritis.

178
Autistic Spectrum Disorders
WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPORT?

Students with:
- specific learning difficulties (SpLD) such as dyslexia and dyspraxia
- mental health conditions, such as depression, anxiety or an eating disorder
- long standing illnesses or health conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy and chronic fatigue syndrome
- autistic spectrum conditions
- physical or mobility difficulties
- attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- hearing impairments
- visual impairments.

ACCESSING YOUR SUPPORT

- You can register with us online through the RISIS portal and upload your medical evidence (such as GP letter or full diagnostic report for students with specific learning difficulties. Please note, we cannot accept the ‘Form 8’).
- We will then be in contact with you to discuss your needs.
- If you are having difficulties getting evidence, please get in touch for advice.
- Our service is confidential and the information we ask for is only passed on to other people in the university with your consent, and only to make sure you get the support you need.

The Disability Advisory Service is open all year (except Bank Holidays and on University closure days), from 10am to 4pm. We are based on the ground floor of the Carrington Building.
Here are some of the possible adjustments that could be discussed with a Disability Adviser.

The University has an inclusive teaching and learning policy and alongside this we can make further adjustments to support your individual needs.

Some examples of this could be:

- informing tutors when students have a disability-related reason for missing lectures, arriving late or leaving early (except where attendance is used as a means of assessment)
- similarly, some students may need to move or stretch during lectures to alleviate discomfort due to a physical impairment or health condition, and tutors can also be made aware of this
- all students are permitted to make recordings of lectures (unless the content is confidential). If additional assistive technology is needed, such as an assistive listening device/ radio aid system, we can advise lecturers of what they may need to do to facilitate this
- in practical sessions, additional help can be requested if students struggle to follow demonstrations of written instructions, or have difficulties with physically using any of the lab equipment
- tutors can be asked to compile a glossary of course language in order to support Deaf students working with sign language interpreters.

If you require adjustments to examinations or assessments, you will need to contact the Disability Advisory Service and arrange to speak with an Adviser.
Please contact the Disability Advisory Service as soon as possible to ensure there is enough time for adjustments to be put in place.

Adjustments can include:

- additional time
- smaller exam venues
- rest breaks
- use of a computer, plus access to assistive technology
- provision of ergonomic aids, such as an adjustable chair
- ‘green stickers’ can be applied for students with specific learning difficulties for empathetic marking, so spelling, punctuation and grammar errors are not penalised (unless this is a specific learning outcome of the course)
- exam papers with enlarged fonts, coloured paper or use of coloured overlays.

When students are required to give presentations, adjustments may be made to present to tutor only.

Adjustments can also be made for placements. The Disability Advisory Service can discuss with you and the academic department if you have a placement for a vocational course. Examples of this could be:

- adjustments to working hours
- consideration of travel time
- parking on site
- accessibility of buildings.
Apps Anywhere is a web based tool which provides access to a range of software applications which can then be used by students using their own Windows device or from a university owned PC, from any campus location.

The applications available include **Texthelp Read&Write** (text-to-speech) and **MindManager** (mind mapping), as well as **Audacity**, which can be used to make and edit recordings, and **EndNote** to help with referencing.

There is also one computer within the library with **Supernova** available for students with visual impairments.

The library staff can assist with:

- providing accessible electronic versions of books
- finding books for you to collect
- sourcing and creating accessible formats of materials
- accessing the library online catalogue to locate books
- 1:1 introductions to the library building, it’s study spaces and facilities
- using assistive technology installed on the library PC’s.

To see the library’s guide to finding inclusive technology to support your learning, see [https://libguides.reading.ac.uk/inclusive-technology](https://libguides.reading.ac.uk/inclusive-technology)

For more information and support in the library, please contact **library@reading.ac.uk** or visit [www.reading.ac.uk/library/](http://www.reading.ac.uk/library/)
The university has three campuses; Whiteknights, London Road and Greenlands.

Whiteknights is a large campus set in parkland with a lake. Although mostly level, with gentle slopes, wheelchair users are advised to use a power assisted chair as there can be a considerable distance between buildings.

London Road is a compact and level campus. Our Education and Architecture courses are taught here. As one of the university’s original sites, there are a number of older buildings which may present a challenge in terms of accessibility.

Greenlands is used by the University's Henley Business School as the base for its MBA and corporate learning, and is situated on the banks of the River Thames near Henley.

If you need to discuss accessibility, please contact the Disability Advisory Service and we can liaise with the timetabling team to:

- ensure lectures are timetabled in accessible rooms
- allow additional time for students’ to travel between lectures
- request that back-to-back lectures are timetabled nearby.
GETTING TO THE UNIVERSITY

Buses run regularly between the Whiteknights campus and Reading town centre.

Buses have accessible features such as low floors to allow access, provision of ramps and space for a wheelchair. For more information call 0118 959 4000/ customerservices@reading-buses.co.uk visit www.reading-buses.co.uk

Readibus is a dial-a-ride bus service for people with restricted mobility in and around Reading. Passengers are picked up from their home and assisted if necessary. For more information, contact: 0118 931 0000 or www.readibus.co.uk

Students who have difficulties using public transport are also encouraged to apply for Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) to discuss possible funding towards travel by taxi if needed.

PARKING

The university campuses have spaces for parking, including a number of spaces specifically for blue badge holders.

Blue badge holders may apply for a parking permit which is free of charge.

Students with mobility impairments or other disability-related reasons for requiring parking may also apply for a permit.

Appropriate medical evidence will be needed to support an application.

To apply, please see www.reading.ac.uk/parking/
**ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL MENTORING**

**Academic mentoring**

Students who experience organisational difficulties may benefit from additional support through our Academic Mentoring Scheme.

This support may be provided by a postgraduate student and can assist with:

- organising workloads
- prioritising work
- time management.

Academic mentoring does not provide teaching support, but aims to reduce the impact of organisational difficulties on study.

**Social mentoring**

Students who experience challenges managing the social side of university life may benefit from Social Mentoring support.

This support is provided by current students and they can assist with:

- questions you may have about settling in at University
- support to join clubs and societies
- orientation around campus
- meeting for a chat.

This is likely to be during the first few weeks of term, but can be for longer if needed.

If you think that this support may be useful to you, please contact the Disability Advisory Service. Eligibility will be based on medical evidence and discussion with a Disability Adviser.

**CLUBS AND SOCIETIES**

There is a Reading University Student’s Union (RUSU) group run by students with Asperger syndrome/Autism Spectrum Disorder called **The Social Group**. The group is for anyone with an ASD, or other disabilities which may impact socialising. The group is also open to those who think they might have an ASD, or are in the process of getting a diagnosis.

You can find information on how to join [here](#).

The Students’ Union (RUSU) also provides a wide range of social facilities, clubs and societies.

For more information see [www.rusu.co.uk/activities](http://www.rusu.co.uk/activities).
The university has a wide range of support that can be accessed by all students and full information can be found on the university essentials website [here](#).

These services include information on:

- **Accommodation for disabled students**
- **Medical and general health** — (find the best person to help, and how to register with your local GP)
- **Counselling and Wellbeing** — (professional counselling, wellbeing and mental health support for students)
- **Extenuating circumstances** — (if something happens that impacts your study—find out what to do)
- **Support from your peers** — (through peer-assisted learning and STaR mentors)
- **Support Centres** — (your first port of call for all questions, help or advice throughout your time at university)
- **Study Advice and Maths support team**
- **Religious and spiritual care**

In addition, the Students’ Union (RUSU) has independent advisers who give advice on general students matters including money matters, harassment, housing and many more topics. You can find additional information on their website [here](#).
DISABILITY ADVISORY SERVICE
Carrington Building, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 6UA
Tel: 0118 378 4202 | Email: disability@reading.ac.uk

Support for Disabled Students | University of Reading