



An important message for all students

Whether you are starting or continuing your university studies this autumn, we understand you are doing so under some very challenging circumstances. The vast majority of students in our community are adhering to the government restrictions and following all University guidance. Thank you for playing your part to protect us all.

We are disappointed, however, that some students are not adhering to the rules that are there to protect us all. We have received reports from students, staff and members of the local community about incidents, including flat/house parties, gatherings inside and outside Halls and elsewhere, as well as some students not following social distancing guidelines. This is unacceptable.

Many areas of the UK are under much stricter restrictions than those currently in place in Reading. We must work together to do all we can to keep local infection rates as low as possible to keep the Reading community safe and to avoid harsher measures.

There have been recent changes to what is and isn't permitted by law, so we wanted to take the opportunity to emphasise some important points:

1. Parties are not permitted in Halls.

By hosting or attending a party in Halls you are contravening your Student Residency Agreement and the University's regulations for student conduct during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Meeting or gathering inside or outside with more than 6 people is against the law.

If you meet up with more than 6 people (other than those in your household), indoors or outdoors, you are breaking the law.

3. You may be issued with a fine if you break the rules.

If you socialise with more than 6 people from outside your household you can be fined £200 by the Police. The University's disciplinary procedures provide for a range of disciplinary outcomes ranging from warnings to fines of up to £400 for students who do not adhere to the rules. In serious cases, fines can be increased and you could be expelled from Halls and/or the University. For larger gatherings of more than 30 (including house parties) you can be fined up to £10,000 by the Police.

4. You must self-isolate:

- if you have travelled from a country without UK government exemption;
- if you have symptoms of COVID-19, or someone else in your household does;
- if you receive a positive test result for COVID-19, or someone else in your household does;
- if you are contacted by NHS Test & Trace or other appropriate health authority.

You are responsible for your own actions. Please do not put others' lives at risk. With your help, we can help protect our Reading community.

For the latest information and advice, including how you can access support, please visit reading.ac.uk/essentials. To find out more about how you can socialise safely, through online and on-campus events, please visit rusu.co.uk.

**It's up to each one of us to keep us all safe.
Take responsibility, be kind and respect each other.**

Paddy Woodman
Director of Student Services

Alex, Bandy, George, Rachel O & Rachel W
Your Full-Time RUSU Officer Team