



University of
Reading

AT A GLANCE 2022



In looking back over the last 18 months it would be easy to focus solely on the impact of COVID-19. Undoubtedly, it radically changed how we live, work, study and collaborate overnight. I am incredibly proud of the resilience, determination and compassion that our University community has shown throughout this transformative period.

Despite these challenges of global proportions, our efforts to deliver on our strategic vision have continued, and the last 12 months have brought notable successes under each of our four strategic principles – Community, Excellence, Sustainability, and Engaged University. Indeed, I believe that these principles have provided a valuable sense of direction and purpose as we have sought to make our way in turbulent times.

Our mission remains to transform people's lives through the excellence of our education and research. And there has probably never been a more vital time for this, not just in the face of the pandemic. Climate change and environmental sustainability remain arguably the most pressing issues facing humanity for generations to come.

PROFESSOR ROBERT VAN DE NOORT
VICE CHANCELLOR

In these fields, the University of Reading is world leading, and we continue to champion solutions through our research and our life on campus, evidenced by our #PlanetPartners and #LockdownClimateChange campaigns. We've led the way in seeking to improve climate education in UK schools with our multi partner Climate Education Summit. And we are putting our weighty carbon reduction expertise behind ambitious plans to make the University net carbon zero by 2030.


We continue to live in a volatile world, and we face many challenges. As we look to the year ahead, however, I feel confident that the University community will continue to grow and succeed, delivering on our strategy and, with it, our social purpose.

 Ranked
29th
among UK
universities¹

 We are a
Stonewall
**Top 100
Employer⁴**

 **98%**
of our research
is **internationally
recognised** and **78%**
is **internationally
excellent²**

 **25,010**
students from around
160 countries⁵

 **45.7%**
reduction in **carbon
emissions** from
2008/09 baselines;
third largest reduction
of any UK research-
intensive university³

 Number
21
among UK universities
for our work towards
the **UN's Sustainable
Development Goals⁶**

¹ Ranked 29th by the Times Higher Education 'Best UK Universities' table based on the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022, where Reading is ranked 201-250 overall.

² Based on our submissions judged to be world-leading, internationally excellent and recognised internationally in overall quality by the Times Higher Education's analysis of the 2014 Research Excellence Framework.

³ University of Reading Environmental Sustainability Report 2020/21.

⁴ The University of Reading is ranked 93rd in the Stonewall Top 100 Employers 2020.

⁵ HESA 2020/21 Student Record and Aggregate Offshore Record, figures recorded to the nearest 5.

⁶ Ranked by Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, based on universities' work towards United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Community

The University is a diverse and inclusive community using its knowledge and skills to solve problems and create opportunities for the benefit of people and the planet. Colleagues and students work and study in a fulfilling setting that supports their development.

Creating a place for sanctuary seekers

We welcome and support refugees and migrants both to the University and in the wider local community. We offer Sanctuary Scholarships each year, helping refugees whose education has been disrupted to achieve their full potential.

Our International Study and Language Institute partners with RefuAid to provide English language support for students preparing for university, while our careers service is working with Reading Refugee Support Group to develop online employability skills training.



Giving life to the student voice

We continue to partner with our students to improve responses to their feedback. Our Student Partner scheme piloted in August 2020 has now recruited 44 Student Partners to work with Schools in developing new

initiatives to improve teaching and learning based on identified priorities. A Student Panel has been created to improve students' experience by putting the student voice at the centre of institutional-level decisions and in our student-facing communications.



Supporting communities through COVID-19

We are proud of the support we were able to offer to both our students and the wider community during the pandemic. We ran a dedicated COVID advice hotline for staff, students and their parents, and members of the local community, provided food and care packages for self-isolating students and support for international students in quarantine. We partnered with Public Health England to provide on-campus testing, with the Great Hall set up as one of the largest testing centres in the Thames Valley open to the whole community. Meanwhile, a team of Pharmacy students, lecturers and alumni provided practical support vaccinating homeless people and undocumented migrants in London.



3,925 members of staff, **59%** are female, **15%** are from black and minority ethnic backgrounds ¹



Across all levels of study **54%** of our students are female, **37%** are from black and minority ethnic backgrounds and **12%** have declared a disability²

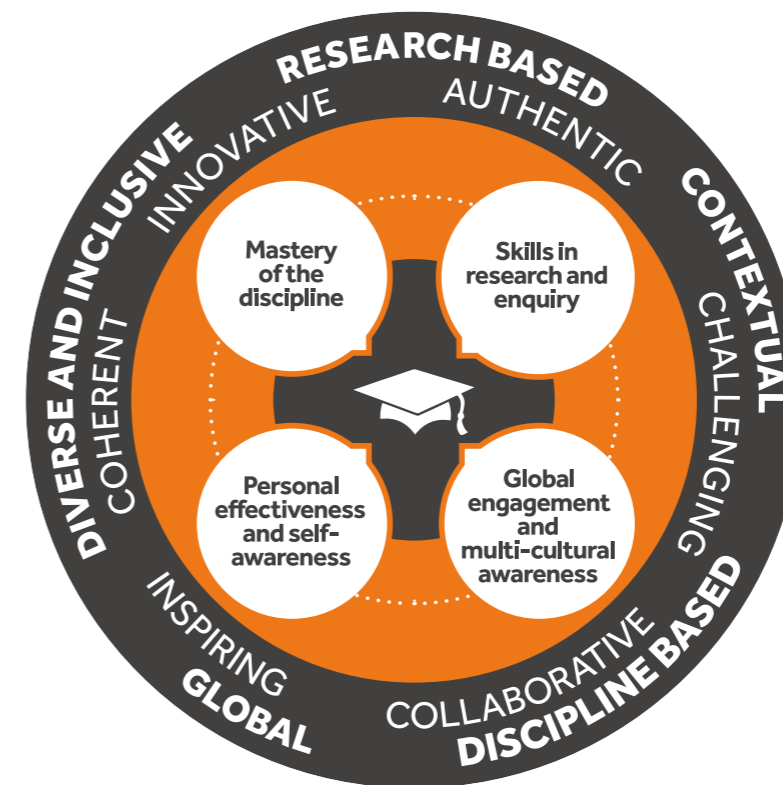
¹ Based on internal data.

² HESA 2019/20 Student Record and Aggregate Offshore Record.

Excellence

We transform lives by focusing on excellence and innovation in education and research locally, nationally and globally, creating an environment where our students and staff can excel academically and personally.

Building a curriculum that enhances student outcomes



Our Curriculum Framework articulates the distinctiveness of the Reading curriculum, and the skills and attributes of the Reading graduate, with global engagement, inclusiveness and self-awareness as underpinning values.



83% of graduates in full-time work are in **professional or managerial roles**.¹



92% of graduates are in **work or further study** six months after graduating.²

¹ Based on the 2018-19 Graduate Outcomes survey of 3,406 University of Reading first degree leavers, of which 57% responded.

² Graduate Outcomes survey.

Protecting Iraq's cultural heritage

Professor Roger Matthews and colleagues are working with the Iraqi Ministry of Culture to enhance the protection and promotion of Iraq's heritage sites and assets and to ensure equitable access by all the communities of Iraq. As part of the Iraq SmartWater project, a traceable liquid was applied to 273,000 artefacts to deter theft and potentially track them if they were looted. The team worked with local antiquities staff and trained them in security measures and cataloguing of application protocols. They now aim to expand the project to other museums in Iraq and in other regions undergoing instability and conflict.



'Image: Osama Shukir Muhammed Amin, via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 4.0)'

Celebrating our National Teaching Fellows

Excellent teaching is central to our students' experience at Reading. We are proud to have many National Teaching Fellows, and in 2020 Vicki Holmes, Head of Technology Enhanced Learning, was recognised with this prestigious award. With nearly 30 years' experience of digital learning and innovation in higher education, Vicki has led a rapid transformation that has embedded new approaches across the University.





Making our green campus even greener

We're not just green because of our parkland! Our goal to be a leader in environmental sustainability is also about our community on campus and our cutting-edge research.

We are proud to have exceeded our target of a 45% reduction in our carbon emissions by 2021. Our innovativeness has been recognised by Salix Finance (part of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme), which has awarded the University £3.4million to further reduce our carbon footprint, through more solar panels, smarter heating systems and replacement of less efficient laboratory equipment.



17.6% reduction in waste per person; sixth highest for a research-intensive university¹



Met our five-year target for 60% recycling rate for July 2021²

¹ University of Reading Environmental Sustainability Report 2020/21.
² University of Reading Environmental Sustainability Report 2020/21.

Sustainability

We work together to make the best use of our resources, from reviewing how we operate to ensure financial sustainability to playing our part in tackling climate change.

Partnering for the planet

Only by understanding the climate crisis are we able to find solutions. The University is a world leader in climate science, with Reading scientists playing a central role in creating the latest UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report released in August 2021. With six lead authors to the Working Group 1 report on the physical sciences, the University was the most represented of any institution.

Through our #PlanetPartners social media campaign we are raising awareness of climate and sustainability research and action. This includes analysis of the significance of different greenhouse gas emissions, sea level rises and wildfire management.

To reach the next generation we held a Climate Education Summit in September 2021, bringing together young people, teachers, researchers, policymakers and campaigners to deliver a shared action plan to improve education on this critical issue.

Climate in the Classroom

Climate Education Summit 15 September 2021



Discussing the future of climate education in schools
reading.ac.uk/summit



Student sustainability fayre

Our Students' Union hosted its very first Sustainability Fayre in 2021, where students could seek out tips on how to reduce their carbon footprint. The Fayre involved local community groups such as Reading Hydro, People & Planet and Green Bike Food, as well as from the University's Sustainability team and the Vegan and Vegetarian and Zero Waste student societies.

Engaged University

We work with partners in a coordinated way to play a positive role in the life of our local communities, and use these local connections to strengthen our work around the world. Public engagement and consultation, including in research, are central to how we live and work.



Regeneration through sharing hidden histories

By connecting residents with their rich multicultural history and heritage, the University is helping communities along the Oxford Road in Reading to discover a sense of pride and ownership in the future. As part of an initiative by Historic England to revitalise local high streets, Dr Sally Lloyd-Evans and a team of students worked with residents to collect their stories and memories. These were brought to life through a series of art projects, including recipe cards created by the community, a walking audio tour and an online exhibition hosted by Reading Museum.



Ensuring access to healthy food for all

The University is putting disadvantaged communities at the heart of a project to ensure that everyone has access to healthy and sustainable food. Working with food producers, food charities

and policymakers, the project led by Professor Carol Wagstaff will share knowledge from communities in Brighton, Plymouth, Reading and Tower Hamlets. Professor Wagstaff says the project will "give a voice and power to those who are so often left behind when food systems, policies and products are designed."



Climate research inspiring local action

Our climate experts are working to inspire local people, organisations and businesses to contribute to the fight against climate change. During 2020 we worked closely with Reading Borough Council to develop a Climate Action Plan for a net zero carbon town and we hosted multiple public events as part of the annual Reading Climate Festival, organised by Reading Climate Action Network. Highlights this year included Professors Richard Allan and Nicolas Bellouin, contributors to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, talking about the Report's findings, while Professor Tim Dixon focused on how local people and councils are making practical changes to make climate action a reality.



In the **top 100** for international outlook¹



54% of all research publications from 2015–2020 were a result of international collaboration²



Over 1.35 million enrolments on our **free online courses**³

¹ Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020 – scores ranked by International Outlook
² Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022 – scores ranked by International Outlook.
³ Based on internal data from the Open Online Courses team.

Places of Reading

The Harris Garden is a valuable teaching space as well as a beautiful spot to relax on our award-winning campus



With solar panels recently installed on seven more buildings, the University will produce almost 1MW of solar energy



Our climate stripes take pride of place on campus; they have gone global appearing everywhere from the US Senate to Australian churches

The Cole Museum of Zoology has a new home in the atrium of the new Health and Life Sciences building, and provides a unique resource for students and school visits



The Museum of English Rural Life and Reading Museum have formed a Museums Partnership, funded by Arts Council England, to provide education and cultural opportunities for young people and diverse communities



The beautiful Great Hall at London Road not only hosts our graduation ceremonies, but welcomes the wider community for concerts, lectures and more

Places of Reading reach many thousands of miles beyond the town itself



Henley Business School South Africa in Johannesburg



University of Reading Malaysia campus at EduCity@Iskandar



A joint Academy with the Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology, China



**THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES**
FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION
2021