



READING SCHOLARS 2021

Year 12 Higher Education Experience



READING SCHOLARS 2021

Reading Scholars is a year long programme consisting of fourteen strands, which aims to give you a real taste of life as a university student, an insight into studying at degree level and also advice and guidance on higher education in general. Featuring input from leading academics and current undergraduate students, the programme seeks to challenge you academically and enhance your current studies.

WHEN AND WHERE?

The programme takes place at the University of Reading, and you will participate in four events throughout the academic year. These will include:

- In **January**, an introductory session to the University and programme, an opportunity to meet your mentor and fellow Reading Scholars – online event.
- In **February**, an academic session within your chosen strand – online event.
- In **March**, a second academic session in your chosen strand – on-campus event.
- In **July**, a four day residential summer school that aims to increase your subject knowledge as well as enhancing some of the key skills needed to succeed at university – on-campus event.
- In **September** of Yr13, we also run an optional UCAS application workshop.

Events will typically run from 9.30am-3.30pm.

You will participate in a project related to your strand, designed to prepare you for work you will undertake at university.

Participation costs for all students are covered, including transport, food, refreshments and accommodation for the summer 2020 residential. Because the first two events are online, you should have access to a computer and internet connection to enable your participation in these events.

You will be mentored throughout the programme by one of our current students. They will support you to participate in on-campus events, and will also provide e-mentoring between events.

Whilst the March and July events are currently planned to be on-campus, it may be the case that these need to be delivered online. Where this is the case, we will take all steps we can to reflect the same content but online. The benefits for completing the programme will remain the same.

'I feel Reading Scholars widened my knowledge base in the art and design field, especially graphic design, and I made use of this knowledge in my Art AS level and in producing my portfolio and personal statement for university applications. Finally, it gave a feeling of what it is like to study a design course at university, which in turn helped inform my university choices.'

Ed (Art & Design)

ARCHITECTURE

You will gain an insight into what being an Architecture student here at Reading is like, through a mixture of lectures, seminars and practical drawing workshops, designed to provide you with material to include in your portfolio. You will be able to visit the facilities available to Architecture students, and speak directly to academics and current Architecture students.

Subject requirements:

You should have an interest in applying for a related subject at university.



ART & DESIGN

You will experience a range of forms of art and design, as well as undertaking sessions in the history of art. Your practical sessions may include print-making, photography, graphic design and clay modelling. You will have the chance to specialise in either art or design, and you will leave with material to include in your portfolio to give you an edge when making your university applications.

Subject requirements:

You should have an interest in applying for a related subject at university.



BIOLOGY

Working in university laboratories to carry out practical experiments as well as experiencing lectures, you will learn more about Biological techniques which have a real world relevance. You will also gain an insight into related fields such as Biomedical Engineering.

Subject requirements:

You should be studying towards an A-level in Biology or equivalent qualification, as well as have an interest in applying for a related subject at university.

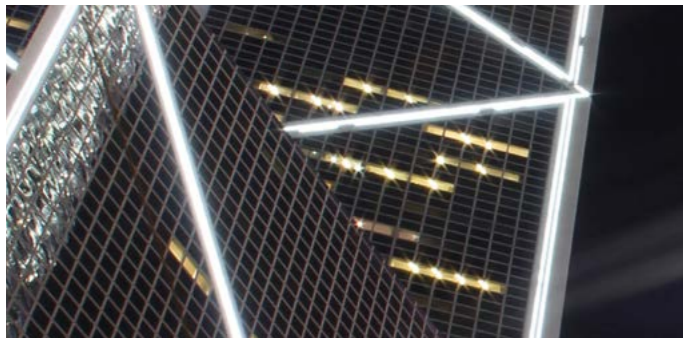


BUSINESS

Finding out about the range of degrees offered through our business school, you will spend time in lectures and seminars covering subjects including business and management, accounting and finance.

Subject requirements:

Studying towards an A-level or equivalent in Maths is an advantage but not essential. You should have an interest in applying for a related subject at university.



CHEMISTRY, FOOD SCIENCE & PHARMACY

You will undertake both practical sessions in our laboratories and lectures, covering each of these subject areas. This will give you a great insight into what studying each of these subjects at university would be like, as well as developing your knowledge to support you in your studies.

Subject requirements:

You should be studying towards an A-level in Chemistry or equivalent qualification, as well as an interest in applying for a related subject at university.



FILM, THEATRE AND TELEVISION

Experiencing the fantastic facilities available in the purpose built Minghella Studio, you will experience practical and theoretical sessions designed to give you a rounded experience of the courses delivered by the Film, Theatre and Television Department. You will get to analyse and discuss films, performances and plays, as well as utilizing your own creativity to put together your own pieces of work and performances.

Subject requirements:

You should have an interest in applying for a related subject at university.



HISTORY, CLASSICS & ARCHAEOLOGY

A mix of practical workshops and lectures, this strand will give you a thorough understanding of how these related subjects further our knowledge of the past. You will go on a journey through history, exploring different cultures and civilisations, spending time within each subject area.

Subject requirements:

It would be helpful, though not essential, if you are studying towards an A-level in History or equivalent qualification, as well as an interest in applying for a related subject at university.



EDUCATION

You will gain an insight into the different degrees available to students through the Institute of Education, including the BA in Primary Teaching (QTS), and the BA in Education Studies. You will experience how these courses are delivered, understand the role of placements as part of the course and how these are supported, and how specialisms within courses can give you an advantage in your post-university career.

Subject requirements:

You should have an interest in applying for a related subject at university.



ENGLISH LITERATURE

You will participate in lectures, seminars and workshops, looking at literature from a range of authors and periods of history, exploring, analysing and critiquing these texts with the support of academics, mentors and fellow scholars.

Subject requirements:

You should be studying towards an A-level in English Literature or equivalent qualification, as well as an interest in applying for a related subject at university.



LANGUAGES

You will choose to specialise in either French, German or Spanish for the duration of the programme, where you will experience practical language learning sessions designed to enhance your subject knowledge. You will also experience lectures to develop your understanding of the culture and history of nations using these languages.

Subject requirements:

You should be studying towards an A-level in French, German or Spanish or equivalent qualification, as well as an interest in applying for a related subject at university.



LAW

You will get an introduction to how law is created and applied, particularly through decisions in difficult cases. You will spend time in lectures and seminars that look at a variety of interesting areas of law and show you how to think like a lawyer.

Subject requirements:

You should have an interest in applying for a related subject at university.

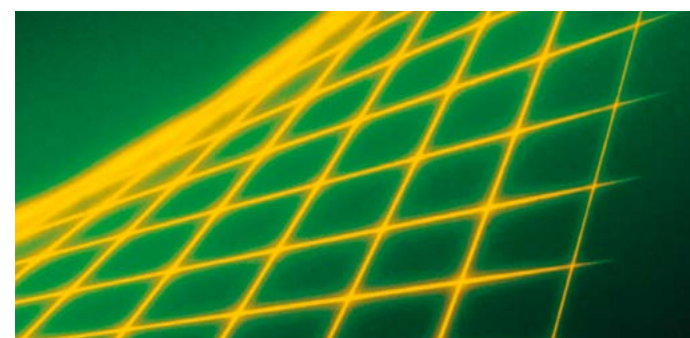


MATHEMATICS

You will participate in sessions designed to show you how mathematical techniques can be applied to the real world, gaining an insight into areas such as experimental design and mathematical modelling of the spread of disease.

Subject requirements:

You should be studying towards an A-level in Mathematics or equivalent qualification, as well as an interest in applying for a related subject at university.



PSYCHOLOGY

Are you interested in how the human mind develops over a lifetime? Do you wonder how we perceive the world around us? Whilst on the Psychology strand, you'll gain valuable insight into how and why we study Psychology at University level. You will, amongst other things, also hear sessions on the inner workings of the world's most complex machine: the human brain.

Subject requirements:

You should be interested in applying for a related subject at university.



PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

By experiencing both practical workshops and lectures, you will participate in sessions designed to develop your knowledge of the environment around us. You will experience sessions in both subject areas, designed to give you an insight into how you would experience these subjects at degree level.

Subject requirements:

You should be studying towards an A-level in Geography or equivalent qualification, as well as an interest in applying for a related subject at university.



'Reading Scholars was an excellent way to make my university choice and think about what career I want to have. The organised events gave me loads of opportunities to meet people with similar interests and aspirations. This programme gave me the confidence in one of the most important decisions - in which field I want to extend my knowledge.'

Diana
(Chemistry, Food Science & Pharmacy)

HOW DO I APPLY?

To apply for this programme, you will need to:

- Meet the eligibility criteria specified below
- Gain consent from your school/college, and your parents/carer, to participate in this programme
- Complete an application form available at: www.reading.ac.uk/reading-scholars, specifying your first and second choice of strand

The closing date for applications is **Friday 6 November 2020**

Who can apply?

To be eligible for this programme, you will need to:

- Have achieved at least 5 GCSE 9–4 grades or equivalent, including in English Language, Maths and Science.
- Be on track to achieve good results at A-level (or equivalent). Students who would benefit from the additional support that the programme provides are also encouraged to apply.
- Be attending a state school or college.

We particularly welcome applications from students interested in studying at the University of Reading.

Due to the nature of funding for this programme, priority will be given to students who meet one or more of the following selection criteria:

- Is in or has been in care of local authority
- Asylum seeker/refugee
- Young Carer
- Has a disability
- Eligible for Free School Meals/ Discretionary school payments.
- Family income of less than £25,000
- Lives in postcode where less students than average progress to higher education (POLAR 4 quintile 1 or 2)

What are the benefits?

By engaging in this programme, you will:

- Be supported in developing your academic ability.
- Learn new techniques and gain practical experience relevant to your chosen strand.
- Receive detailed information and guidance on higher education and the UCAS application process.
- Develop and strengthen the personal and social skills that will help you in higher education study.
- Meet new people with similar interests to yourself.
- Engage with current University of Reading students and learn what it is really like to study at a university.
- Participate in e-mentoring with a current student, via a secure and safe online platform.
- Get to take part in fun activities and a residential event in the summer.

Our commitment to you

We aim to provide

- A safe and supportive environment for all participants
- Ongoing support after completion of the Scholars programme whilst you complete your university applications

We in turn expect our

Reading Scholars students to:

- Attend all events, whether online or on-campus
- Actively take part in e-mentoring (send a minimum of one message per week)
- Reply in a timely fashion to all correspondence from University of Reading staff
- Follow our Code of Conduct

If you **COMPLETE** the **Reading Scholars programme** and apply to University of Reading we **GUARANTEE TO MAKE YOU A**

CONDITIONAL OFFER

or invite you to attend an interview here

ALL Reading Scholars students who put University of Reading down as their firm choice with UCAS are eligible to apply for a

£1000 SCHOLARS BURSARY

in their first year

If you **COMPLETE** the **Reading Scholars programme** and apply to University of Reading you will be eligible for a

TWO GRADE DROP on your

offer for

MOST COURSES

ABOUT US

OVER
200
COURSES
TO FIND OUT ABOUT



98%
OF RESEARCH
IS RATED OF
INTERNATIONAL
STANDING¹



94%
OF GRADUATES IN
WORK OR FURTHER
STUDY SIX MONTHS
AFTER GRADUATING²

¹Research Excellence Framework 2014

²2016–17 Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE)

READING SCHOLARS 2021

 For more information, please contact:


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