




University of
Reading

**AT A GLANCE
2024**



In testing times, challenge reveals purpose. In common with other institutions in higher education and beyond, we are facing ongoing economic uncertainties. And we are doing it head on, with ambitious plans to ensure a stable future. But this does not come at the expense of our social and civic purpose.

Case in point: independent research last year revealed that the University's contribution to the economy has reached £1 billion. Around half of that stays in the local area, benefitting local businesses and our wider community.

And despite challenging times – indeed, because of them – we are investing in exceptional learning experiences for our students, in pioneering research and in ground-breaking sustainability initiatives that safeguards every tomorrow.

Our strategic partnerships, aligned with our values and strengths, also spur us on. Our industry engagement enhances student employability, creates impact through research, and helps us to develop state-of-the-art facilities. It is a win-win for all involved.

In keeping with our commitment to build a better future for all, we continue to pioneer developments in renewable energy, climate research and environmental policy. Our relentless climate action recently won consecutive top honours from People & Planet University League and the first-ever Times Higher Education Climate Leadership prize. We drive renewable breakthroughs, craft environmental policies and anchor research powering global change.

With continued strategic investments and industry engagement, we will cement our leadership in climate action, equipping students to drive progress and creating real-world impact through research. This is how we shape a better, more sustainable future for all.

PROFESSOR ROBERT VAN DE NOORT CBE
VICE-CHANCELLOR

March 2024



£1bn

contributor to
the **UK economy**¹



15th

in the UK for
supporting
UN global goals⁴



1st

in the UK for
sustainability²



27,465

students from around
160 countries⁵



26th

in the **UK**³



TEF
**silver
award**
for **teaching
excellence**⁶

¹ The Economic Impact of the University of Reading, Hatch Urban Solutions, commissioned by the University of Reading

² People and Planet University League 2023/4

³ Ranked out of 104 participating UK institutions in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024

⁴ Ranked out of 57 participating UK institutions according to the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023, based on work towards United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

⁵ HESA 2021/22 Student Record and Aggregate Offshore Record, figures recorded to the nearest 5

⁶ Teaching Excellence Framework 2023

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.

Green flag campus

Our beautiful campuses are integral to our sense of community in which we work, study and live. The University's Whiteknights campus – including a lake, woodlands and the popular Harris Gardens – picked up a 13th Green Flag Award

in 2023 as one of Britain's top green spaces.

The campus is also a haven for local wildlife, with areas of meadow left uncut to provide habitats and food for birds and butterflies, while the lake is an oasis for fish, birds and insects.



Recognising researcher excellence

Our annual Research Awards celebrate excellent research taking place across the University that addresses real-world problems and improves academic practice.

Researchers looking at carbon in compost, the way that air quality affects beneficial insect populations, the philosophy of our beliefs

and how second language learners develop their vocabularies were all worthy winners at our most recent awards.

The quality of entries demonstrates just how committed colleagues are to making a difference through their research.



Fair jobs for students

Finding work to support their studies is critical for many students, particularly as the cost of living continues to be challenging.

That's why we are so proud of Campus Jobs, our platform for employing students in temporary and short-term roles on campus. With a good standard rate of pay and hours limited in term time, students can earn while gaining vital work experience that works with, not against, their studies. Roles are varied and interesting, with students hired as ambassadors at Open Days, content creators for our student communication channels, in community engagement and much more.



3,835 members of staff. **59%** identify as female and **21%** are from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds.¹



Across all levels of study **54%** of our students identify as female, **38%** are from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds and **15%** have declared a disability²

¹ HESA 2022/23 Staff Record

² HESA 2021/22 Student Record and Aggregate Offshore Record, figures recorded to the nearest 5

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.

Programmes fit for the future

Keeping up with the changing demands of current and prospective students is vital if we are to keep attracting high calibre students and ensure our future academic success.

That is why we are working to overhaul our portfolio of taught programmes, ensuring that what we have to offer is coherent, sustainable, and caters

to diverse student needs.

From September this year, we will switch to a two-semester academic year. This move will support our ambitions for student growth and our status as a global institution, enabling us to offer new and improved courses that are attractive to even more students, right across the world.



A new home for Art

A modern new home for the School of Art opened on our Whiteknights campus in September 2023.

It offers large, up-to-date studio and exhibition spaces that are bright, airy and inspiring, as well as new workshop facilities for ceramics, screen printing, wood and metal work and more.

Solar panels on the refurbished building mean that this creative space can foster new artistic talent, without costing the Earth.



Flower-powered farming boosts biodiversity and crop yields

Planting insect-friendly flowers alongside crops is helping smallholder farmers in India improve fruit and vegetable yields while using fewer damaging agrochemicals. This has been enabled by research co-developed by Reading ecologists, Indian researchers and the farmers themselves.

This win-win approach for both nature and sustainable food production is changing local practices and informing national and international policy on biodiversity.

Transforming Britain's diets

Scientists at Reading are transforming UK food systems and revolutionising our diets. By using faba bean flour in our bread, addressing market gaps, and collaborating with industry and government, the Raising the Pulse project is enhancing the nation's sustainability and health.



TEF Silver Award for teaching excellence.¹



Ranked at **35** out of **157** UK institutions by **research power.**²

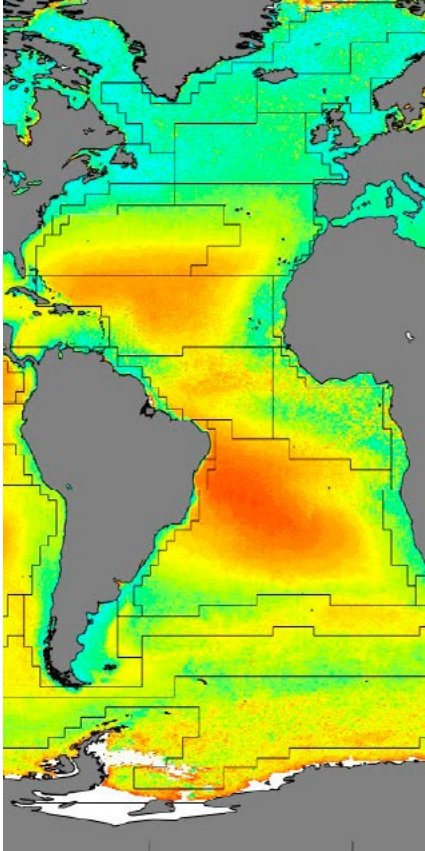


89% of graduates in full-time work are in **professional or managerial roles.**³

¹ Teaching Excellence Framework 2023

² REF 2021 analysis of the quality and quantity of research by Times Higher Education

³ Graduate Outcomes Survey 2020/21



Sustainability

We work together to make the best use of our resources, to ensure financial sustainability and to play our part in tackling climate change.

Leading climate education in schools

Our groundbreaking Climate Ambassadors Scheme, bringing climate education to primary and secondary schools, got a £2m boost this year, with government funding to make the programme available to every education setting in England. The scheme will be expanded and delivered by a consortium of partners, led by the University in partnership with EAUC, the national sustainability charity for Universities in the UK.

Through this, we will establish nine regional hubs across England, hosted by 12 universities and organisations with expertise in climate and environmental sustainability. These hubs will recruit and support Climate Ambassadors to provide free advice and support to over 30,000 nurseries, schools, colleges and universities in developing and delivering Climate Action Plans.

Addressing water sustainability

Our research is identifying how climate change is intensifying the world's water cycle leading to more extreme wet and dry periods and showing how social inequalities are driving urban water crises more than environmental factors.

We've developed a new way to measure ocean carbon from satellite images and our first-of-its-kind research on releasing electric charge into fog to influence the behaviour of water drops could one day help provide enough water for the global population.



35% reduction in **waste generated** per person compared to 2015/16 baseline ¹



61.2% carbon emissions reduction compared to 2008/09 baseline ²



ZERO direct or indirect investments in **fossil fuels** ³

¹ University Sustainability Report 2022/23

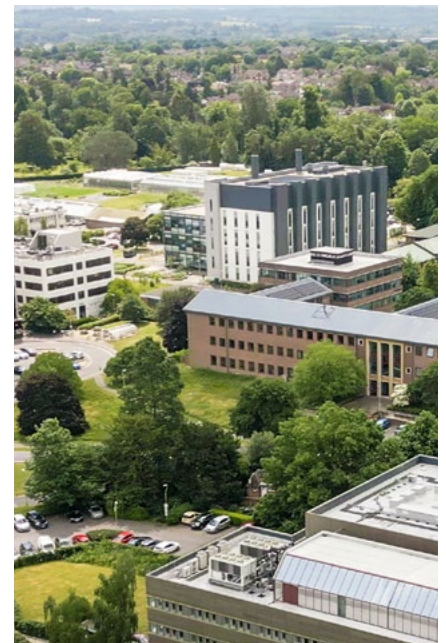
² University Sustainability Report 2022/23

³ University Sustainability Report 2022/23

A sustainable financial future

Global financial pressures are affecting institutions worldwide, and Reading is no exception.

Cutting our energy consumption, increasing student recruitment and ambitious efforts to raise our international profile are all helping to put the University on a stable footing for the coming years and into the future.



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.

Our first ever Community Festival

Our green campus buzzed as we hosted our first ever Community Festival in May 2023, welcoming local residents, staff, students and visitors from further afield to be part of the action.

Live music performances, creative workshops, and a family friendly research showcase gave our visitors a taste of campus life.

By connecting with local residents in this way, we open up our University. It reminds our neighbours that this wonderful space is here on their doorsteps – and that they are welcome any time.

The Community Festival returns, bigger and better than ever, in May 2024.



Volunteers shed light on modernist publishing

Volunteers joined forces with academics and archivists to transcribe letters in our Special Collections, written between twentieth century book publishers and authors from The Hogarth Press publishing house, created by Virginia and Leonard Woolf.

This co-created digital archive shines a light on this fascinating period, opening up a sample of our collections to the public.



Community-led research


Communities know better than anyone the problems that they face. Members of our local community don't just take part in University research about their lives: they are central to it.

Our work in Reading and the local area is transforming lives with community researchers, organisations, students and academics working together, building trust and achieving common goals.

Through community-led research, we proposed a series of recommendations to help tackle health inequalities in Reading, while our partnership with the British Science Association is putting communities at the heart of research by exploring issues that matter to them through a new research pilot.



 **Joint 38th** in the world for **international outlook**¹

 Around **1.6 million** enrolments on our **free online courses**²

 **59%** of all research publications from 2018–2023 were a result of **international collaboration**³

¹ Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024

² Based on internal data

³ Based on SciVal data

A home for business



A £1bn contribution to the UK economy

An independent report commissioned by the University shows that the University of Reading's contribution to the national economy reached £1bn in 2021/22, with around half of that retained in the local area.

The research found that 1 in 26 jobs in Reading and Wokingham can be traced back to the University and praises our knowledge exchange programmes and support for businesses located on the University's campuses, including Thames Valley Science Park.



Businesses powered by Reading research

Our research output is directly harnessed into business potential. The University's Knowledge Transfer Centre works to enhance the impact of our research, knowledge and skills through business engagement and commercialisation activities.



Educating business leaders

The Henley Partnership programme works with businesses in the region and across the UK, developing employees' leadership and management capability with a flexible programme of innovative events, webinars and masterclasses.

Our professional apprenticeships, developed by Henley Business School, deliver high quality management education on-the-job to business leaders. Employers that have benefitted from the innovative apprenticeship programmes include Bupa, Lloyds Bank, Inmarsat, Lumen, Vodafone, Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Trust, Army Higher Education Pathway.



Funding community projects

The Community Fund shows how the University, business and charity partners can work together to help local projects thrive. Since 2021, we've worked with the John Sykes Foundation to deliver cash grants to good causes in Reading and the Thames Valley.

We've supported projects including a mixed ability rugby team, STEM career showcases for disadvantaged schoolchildren and health checks for refugee communities and much more, thanks to this vital partnership.



Nurturing entrepreneurs with system-changing ideas

University Chancellor Paul Lindley founded just IMAGINE if..., an international social enterprise research grant, with a prize of university research and business support from the University of Reading and Henley Business School, worth up to £100,000.

Nostos Homes, which creates innovative and practical emergency shelters to help people around the world, was the 2022 winner, while 2019's prize helped boost Muyu MilQ, a climate conscious, dairy-free drinks brand.

Companies behind pioneering eco-bricks, portable solar powered classrooms and natural water supply solutions for refugee camps are among the nine finalists in the running for the 2024 prize.



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