



University of  
Reading

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## AT A GLANCE 2023



In today's rapidly evolving world, it is increasingly clear that no single institution can solve the complex challenges we face on their own. Yes, we as a University continue to help combat global issues such as poverty, inequality and environmental threats through our teaching, research and actions, yet real progress can only be achieved in collaboration with others.

International events over the past 12 months, combined with rising costs and a turbulent political and social picture, mean it is more important than ever that we work in partnership to find solutions and achieve our strategic goals.

In this vein, the past year has seen progress with some major partnerships. Our work with the Department for Education to improve climate education in the UK took a major step forward in the launching of a new Climate Ambassadors Scheme – connecting climate change experts with schools.

Locally our membership of the Museum Partnership Reading continues to increase access to arts and heritage for local communities, while our international research and institutional collaborations are advancing understanding of the world and improving prospects and lives.

**PROFESSOR ROBERT VAN DE NOORT**  
VICE-CHANCELLOR

As a university we are in a privileged position to be able to make a difference in the face of global challenges. Partnerships enhance this ability by helping us to leverage our strengths, expand our reach and accelerate progress towards solutions, as well as enrich and diversify our students' learning experience.

Working with industry and community organisations also helps us to ensure our research and teaching remains relevant and impactful, with people as a focal point.

For a thriving University and planet, we must continue this collaborative outlook. We have done a lot of good in the world, but together we can do much more.



Race  
Equality  
Charter  
Bronze Award

We hold a **Race  
Equality Charter  
bronze award**<sup>1</sup>



**4<sup>th</sup>**  
in the UK for  
**Sustainability**<sup>2</sup>



Top  
**200**  
in global  
rankings<sup>3</sup>



**86%**  
of research is  
**world-leading or  
internationally  
excellent**<sup>4</sup>



Number  
**24**

among UK universities  
for our work towards  
the **UN's Sustainable  
Development Goals**<sup>5</sup>



**25,120**  
**students** from around  
**160 countries**<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Awarded by AdvanceHE

<sup>2</sup> People and Planet University League 2022/23

<sup>3</sup> Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023, where Reading is ranked 26th in the UK

<sup>4</sup> Research Excellence Framework 2021

<sup>5</sup> Ranked out of 53 participating UK institutions according to the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022, based on work towards United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

<sup>6</sup> HESA 2021/22 Student Record and Aggregate Offshore Record, figures rounded 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.

## Archaeology tops charts

The University's Archaeology department was placed first for overall research quality in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) in May 2022, while the undergraduate programme also achieved a 100% overall satisfaction score in the National Student Survey 2022.

Meteorology, Ecology & Wildlife Conservation, Film & Theatre, and Nutrition & Food Science with Professional Training also achieved 100% overall satisfaction NSS scores.



## Prestigious awards and honours

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Parveen Yaqoob was appointed OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June 2022. Professor Yaqoob is a distinguished academic, leader and champion of equality and diversity in higher education, and the first female Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University. Professor Paul Glaister, (Department of Mathematics and Statistics) was also named CBE in the New Year's Honours for services to Education.



It was a double celebration at the 2022 Times Higher Education Awards, with two wins recognising our excellent research capability. Ground-breaking research into flight routes that is already cutting the carbon output of transatlantic travel picked up the prize for Research Project of the Year in STEM. Meanwhile, Senior Technician Hong Lin won Outstanding Technician of the Year for projects including new treatments for children with epilepsy and therapies for Covid-19 using llama antibodies.

Our growing number of National Teaching Fellows also increased to 13 in 2022, with two further colleagues, Amanda Millmore (Law) and Professor Norbert Morawetz (Henley Business School), recognised for their positive impact on student outcomes and experience and contribution to the teaching profession.

## Championing inclusive teaching & learning

We aim to ensure that our education is accessible for each and every person at Reading. We are proud of the positive, progressive steps we are taking to decolonise our curriculum and embed inclusivity throughout all programmes. For us, a diverse and inclusive learning community is at the very core of what it means to be a university. From toolkits and resources, funding inclusive projects, to partnering with our student Inclusion Consultants, our vision is to ensure that everyone can realise their potential.



**80%** of students **satisfied** with the **quality of their course**<sup>1</sup>.



Ranked at **35** out of **157** UK institutions by research power<sup>2</sup>.



**87%** of graduates in full-time work are in **professional or managerial roles**<sup>3</sup>.

- 1 National Student Survey 2022
- 2 REF 2021 analysis of the quality and quantity of research by Times Higher Education
- 3 Graduate Outcomes Survey 2019/20

# 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 on green and attractive campuses that support their development.

## Supporting our community to reduce impact of cost of living

Together with Reading University Students' Union, we have been able to implement measures to address the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Student support initiatives include the Warm Welcome low-cost breakfast, an expanded supermarket e-vouchers and Essentials Cupboard scheme, a new bursary for commuter students, a graduation bursary, and removing re-sit fees for this academic year.



Colleagues too can access discounted meals on campus, cheaper bus tickets and a free park and ride scheme, while financial support for public transport and tips on saving energy at home have also been promoted. 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.



## Ukraine scholarships

As part of the University's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, we were proud to launch ten new scholarships for Ukrainian students, enabling young people displaced by the war to further their education.

The support offered includes a full tuition fee waiver, a bursary payment of £5,000 for each year of study, and support in meeting English language requirements.

These scholarships are offered in addition to 12 existing awards under the Sanctuary Scholarships Scheme, open to displaced students from around the globe.



Of our **3,965** members of staff **58%** identify as female and **16%** are from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds<sup>1</sup>.



Across all levels of study **54%** of our students identify as female, **36%** are from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds and **14%** have declared a disability<sup>2</sup>.

- 1 HESA 2020/21 Staff record
- 2 HESA 2021/22 Student Record and Aggregate Offshore Record



# 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.

## Green actions and sustainable travel

The University has reduced its carbon emissions by 51% since 2008/09, equating to more than 167,700 tonnes of carbon dioxide, as outlined in our Environmental Sustainability Report 2021/22. The 2022 travel survey also showed that we have hit our target of 87% of student and staff commutes to campus being made using sustainable modes of transport.

We are building on this in 2023 by encouraging our University community to think about adopting greener habits and behaviours. The Our Future First campaign is

embedding Sustainability Champions across the University, encouraging every member of our community to make simple changes that, collectively, will have a big impact on our world.


We have also agreed new principles on sustainable travel to reduce the amount of business travel by plane, incentivise the use of public transport and adopt a digital-first approach. The changes will reduce our carbon impact and support financial sustainability.



## Green rankings success

Our credentials as a leader on environmental sustainability were confirmed as we were ranked fourth in the 2022/23 People and Planet University League. A rise of 11 places saw Reading awarded another First Class rating by the independent network that produces the League, which reviews more than 150 higher education institutions across the UK every year.

 **60% target met** for all waste generated to be **re-used, recycled or composted** met<sup>1</sup>

 **51% carbon emissions** reduction on 2008/09 baseline<sup>2</sup>

 More than **2,200** different animal and plant species have been identified on the Whiteknights campus to date<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University Sustainability Report 2021/2022  
<sup>2</sup> University Sustainability Report 2021/2022  
<sup>3</sup> Whiteknights campus 2014 biodiversity study

## Climate education scheme launch

More than 120 climate experts across the country have signed up to the Climate Ambassadors Scheme, which was created at Reading and which provides school and college pupils with support and guidance about climate change.

The milestone was reached less than a year after the scheme was launched,

as part of work by the University and partners, including the UK Government, to provide young people with a better understanding of the changing climate.

More than 37,000 pupils at 249 schools and organisations have benefited from the free scheme in its first 12 months.

# 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.

## Football Club takes climate action to a new audience

Reading FC footballers have been wearing their sustainability commitment on their sleeves – literally – this season after striking up a partnership with the University.

University sustainability experts helped support the Royals as they set out ambitions to reduce their environmental footprint as a club, while their home and away kits are emblazoned with the climate stripes designed by Reading climate scientist Professor Ed Hawkins.

The partnership was shortlisted for the Sustainability in Sport Award at the Sports Business Awards 2022.



## British Science Association partnership

The British Science Association has chosen the University as its partner on a pilot research programme working with local communities to develop and deliver research relevant to their lives.

Early career researchers from the University are working with community

groups in Slough and Reading to identify issues that can be addressed using science research methods. Once the proposals are formulated, five projects will be selected to be implemented with the communities.



## Connecting with local communities


By strengthening our relationships and working in partnership with members of the local community in the last year, we are redefining our position as a civic institution in the Thames Valley.

We have relaunched the Community Forum for local residents to connect with University staff, with over 100 people joining for the first meeting. A further 100 people took part in a consultation event on the future of sport and recreation in Shinfield. We also hosted an afternoon tea for 40 Whitley residents, close to our Whiteknights campus.

At Christmas, colleagues donated more than 100 gifts to young patients who were in Royal Berkshire Hospital over the festive season, while 600 runners donned red hats to take part in the Reading Rotary Club's Santa Run on campus.



 In the **top 100** for **international outlook**<sup>1</sup>

 **58%** of all research publications from 2017–2022 were a result of **international collaboration**<sup>2</sup>

 Over 1.5 million enrolments on our **free online courses**<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Time Higher Education World University Rankings 2023  
<sup>2</sup> Based on internal data  
<sup>3</sup> Based on SciVal data

# Key partnerships



## **Shinfield Studios**

The construction of a major new film and TV studio complex at the University's Thames Valley Science Park is progressing well, with Disney confirmed as its first partner.

The Shinfield Studios project will boost student study, local jobs and UK growth by providing a sustainable expansion of the UK's rapidly growing creative industries.

The facility was granted planning permission in 2021 and will eventually comprise 18 sound stages, making it one of the UK's largest film and TV studios.

## **British Museum**

Historic items from the British Museum's world-renowned archaeological collections are also set for a move to Thames Valley Science Park.

The new Archaeological Research Collection will be a global research facility, forming part of the Museum's work to make its collection accessible to as many people as possible.

The Museum will work closely with the University of Reading, local museums (including the University's museums) and partners in developing new ways of looking at and learning from the collection.



## **NHS**

Close collaboration between the University and Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust is continuing, with a new Clinical Training and Education Suite being completed on campus.

A £2.6m grant from the Office for Students was secured in December 2022 to build the suite, which will simulate a four-bed hospital ward. Once opened, it will help address the urgent need for additional medical and healthcare training spaces and help accommodate growing demand for the University's Physician Associates programme.

Funding for major research programmes in applied analytics, cardiology and healthcare technologies and more has also been secured through the Health Innovation Partnership between the University and the Trust.



## **ECMWF**

We continue to work with the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts to bring a new state-of-the-art headquarters to Whiteknights campus.

The move, funded by the UK Government, will create the largest cluster of weather and climate scientists in the world.

The University's long-standing relationship with ECMWF is in addition to other scientific partnerships, such as with the UK Met Office and National Centre for Atmospheric Science, both of which have researchers based in our Department of Meteorology.



## **Natural History Museum**

Researchers from the University and Natural History Museum have begun the first phase of a long-term collaboration.

A Research Open Day in December 2022 brought together more than 100 researchers and staff to explore research and training opportunities.

The event was inspired by the planned move of 28 million specimens and library materials to a new science and digitisation centre at Thames Valley Science Park. This move will enable cutting-edge analysis of significant collections to help worldwide efforts to tackle environmental crises.



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