

# Accessing the University of Reading Open Days

A guide for visitors with additional needs.

We want our Open Days to be accessible and enjoyable to all our visitors, whatever your needs. This guide has been written to enable you to fully take part in our Open Days and collect all the information you need about the University of Reading in a way that is comfortable for you.

We hope it provides you with information and support to plan your day in advance, and to make the most of it. If you have any feedback or comments about the contents of this guide we'd love to hear it, and if you still have questions you can contact us at [opendays@reading.ac.uk](mailto:opendays@reading.ac.uk).



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# Before you arrive:


If you require support such as visual aids or handouts, a BSL interpreter or other adaptations we may be able to offer, please contact us at [opendays@reading.ac.uk](mailto:opendays@reading.ac.uk)

We welcome dogs to our campus. Assistance dogs are able to enter our buildings and the Open Day sessions.

## Planning your day

Our programme of activity is designed to allow you to build your day depending on how much time you have and what interests you. You can make yourself a timetable in advance using our programme available on the website, or wait till you get here and talk to staff who can help you plan your time.

We recommend you start with the subject areas you are interested in and see when the talks and activities are, then fill in around this with other aspects such as accommodation, student finance or student life. If you miss a talk, or need to change your plan on the day that's fine, and our staff are available to talk on an informal basis as well, so you don't need to necessarily attend a session to get answers to your questions.



## PLANNING YOUR DAY

We're delighted to welcome you to the University of Reading and hope that today will give you a real taste for life here.

- Your first stop of the day: the Open Day Marquee**

The Marquee, marked with an **i** on the map, is your registration point on the Whiteknights campus – and where you'll be able to speak to staff about how to make the most of your day.

You'll also be able to talk to experts about Admissions, Accommodation, Student Finance and more! The Marquee is open from 09:00–16:00 and you can return at any point throughout the day.
- Questions?**

If you have any general questions about the University and the Open Day, head to our general information point, marked with an **i** on the map.
- Focus on your subjects of interest first**

Open Days give you a great opportunity to explore the courses you might like to study.

Drop into your department for an introduction to your subject. You'll have the chance to meet academics, chat to current students, attend short talks and tour our facilities.
- Attend University Life sessions**

Our University Life information sessions cover many topics from student finance to study abroad to student life.
- Discover the Students' Union**

A visit to Reading University's SU (building 29, Whiteknights Campus) is a must on Open Days. You'll be able to take tours of the building, talk to our student representatives and explore the SU Marketplace where students will be showcasing the wide range of clubs and societies on offer.
- Experience Student Accommodation**

Our current students will take you on tours of different types of accommodation and we'll also have staff from our Accommodation Team on hand to help answer any questions you may have. It's a great chance to get a feel for what living on a campus university is really like! Tours run between 09:00–16:00.

**University of Reading**

**OPEN DAY PROGRAMME**



## Getting here:

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**Public Transport:** University staff and student ambassadors will be available at the train station and University bus stops to help you find your way. We offer free bus travel to the University on dedicated buses from the train station, which you can use whether you travelled by train to Reading or live locally. Student ambassadors will be wearing red t-shirts and holding lollipop signs.

**By vehicle:** We have dedicated parking at Whiteknights and London Road (for Education and Architecture) Campuses for visitors with Blue Badges, and for visitors (or their guests) who may temporarily have additional access needs, our security teams can direct you on arrival.



Student ambassadors will be wearing red t-shirts and holding lollipop signs.

## On arrival:

### What do I do when I get here?

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Once you have arrived head first to a registration point to check in. There are a number of registration points available depending on which campus you are on and where you have parked.

- **Whiteknights Campus** – main registration is in the Marquee



Outside the marquee – main registration point

- Inside the marquee does get busy at times, and we offer a quiet registration point in the **Carrington Building (135 on the Open Day Map)**, where you can check in and get information and advice about the day in a less busy environment. Look for the sunflower signposting.



Carrington Building (close to the marquee)

- If you are parked on the **Earley Gate** side of campus, check in is also available in the Agriculture Building.
- **London Road** – check in is available in your department buildings of Education or Architecture.

Registration Points will be clearly signposted from bus-stops and car-parks and our staff and students will be on hand to help you find them.

## What happens at registration?

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At the registration point we can check you in, provide you with information about the day, and help you get started.

If you have your QR code ready we can check you in with our scanners. If you don't have a QR code, or can't find it, we can still search for your booking by name so don't worry.

You will be given a paper copy of our Open Day Guide – which includes a map of the campus (tailored to Open Day activity and colour coded), the full programme of activity, and other information such as where you can eat, who to ask for help and other practical information about the day.

Once checked in, you can leave the marquee to go to any sessions you like, or stay to talk with staff on the stands. You can come back at any time, so if it feels too busy at any point, you can leave and return later.



## Inside the marquee

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The marquee at Whiteknights Campus is our main information point with lots of areas of the University represented within, including our Disability Advisory Service.

The space is always quieter over lunchtime and in the afternoon, but if you are here in the morning and wish to speak to someone outside of the marquee, please let staff know over in our Quiet Registration Point in Carrington, and we can arrange for our experts to come to you.

Our Disability Advisory Team are available on the day (in the Marquee) or can come to you in our quiet zone. Opportunities for private 1:1 chats are available.



Inside the marquee

## What if I am very early / late?

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If you arrive at a different time than you expected, either much earlier or later, don't worry.

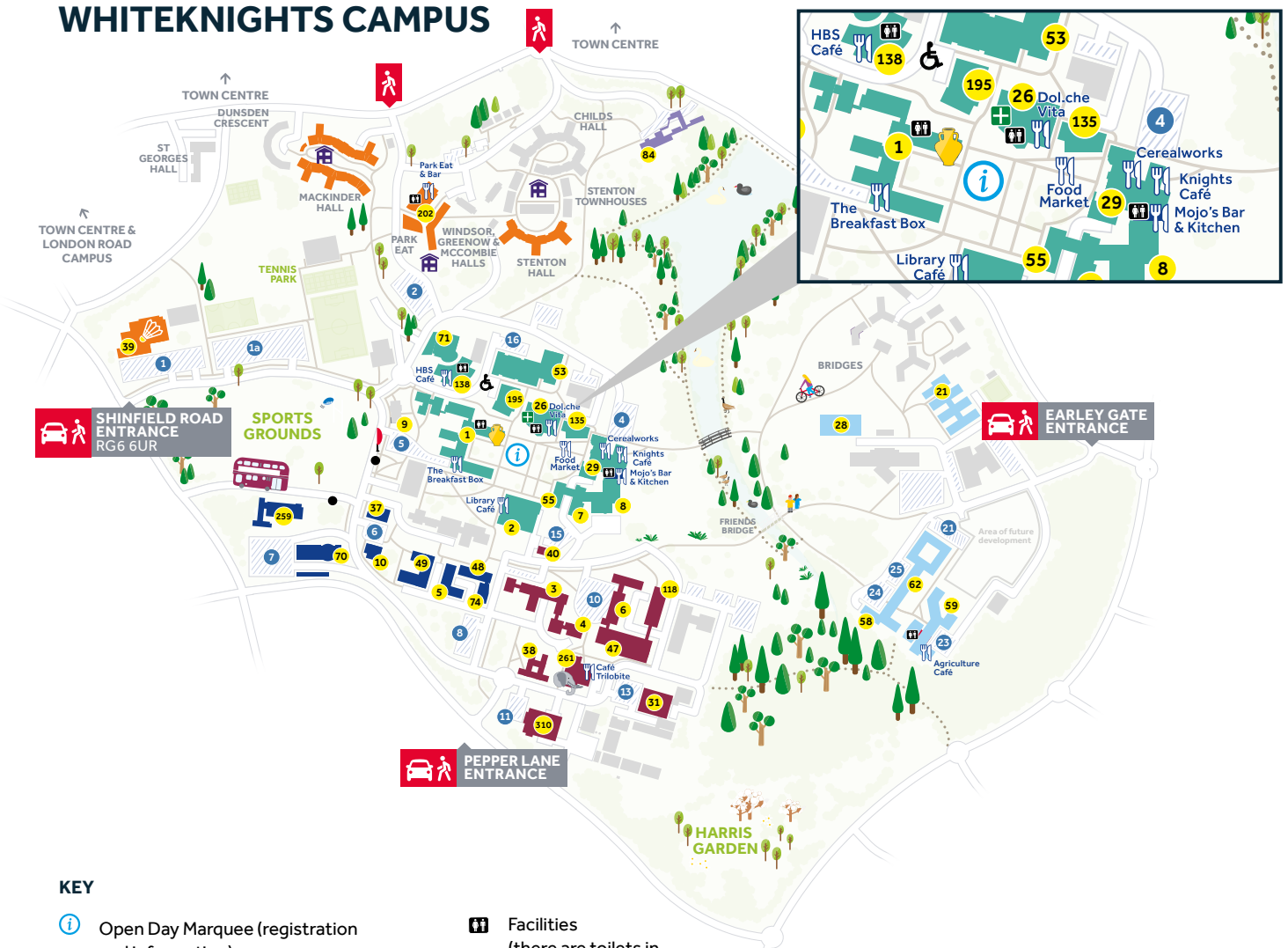
Just head to registration and we can help you make a new plan for the day if needed, or, if you arrive and a session you wanted to see is about to start, ask our staff or students to direct you to your session and you can check in later.

# Getting involved / getting around:

## Using the map

At registration – you will be given a colour coded map with a key that is specifically created for Open Days and is colour coded to help you navigate around the campuses. It can be downloaded or viewed in advance as well from the Open Day Portal and looks like this (there is also a map for our much smaller London Road campus if you arrive there for the subjects of Architecture or Education).

### WHITEKNIGHTS CAMPUS



**KEY**

- Open Day Marquee (registration and information)
- Walking paths
- Shuttle bus stop (free shuttle bus to/from Reading station via London Road campus)
- Public bus stop (paid service to/from Reading station)
- Buildings open today (colours correspond to programme)
- Other buildings
- Car parks

- Facilities (there are toilets in most open buildings)
- Accessible parking & accessibility bus
- Pedestrian entrance
- Catering outlet \*
- Accommodation open today
- First aid point
- Cole Museum
- Ure Museum
- SportsPark

**CATERING OUTLETS**

Service	Building reference
Co-op food	Cedars hotel, Whiteknights: building 55 ●
Library	Library building, hiteknights: building 2 ●
Park Eat	Park Eat, Whiteknights: building 202 ●
Reading Students' Union	Students' Union, Whiteknights: building 29 ●

\* Please note that our eateries on both campuses have a cashless system in place.

The programme has start and finish times for all sessions to help you to plan when looking at activities that might run next to each other. In subject areas, sessions are designed to enable you to have time to get from one activity (such as a talk) to a tour afterwards.

**As a rough guide, from the marquee marked with the Info sign in the centre (and depending on walking speed) we'd recommend leaving:**

- 5 mins to get to the **teal coloured buildings** (includes subjects of Accounting / Business / Finance / Film and Theatre / Economics / Politics / Law / English Literature / History / Languages / Marketing among others. The Student Life zone / library / campus tour starting point). Please check the map online for the full list of all subject areas in this zone.
- 10 mins to get to the **burgundy coloured buildings** (largely science-based) departments (Health and Life Sciences, Maths, Computer Science) and also Art.
- 10–15 mins to get to the **navy coloured buildings** (Geography / Environmental Sciences / Archaeology / Construction Management and Surveying / Architectural Engineering.
- 10–15 mins to get to the **accommodation hub in orange**.
- 15–20 mins to get to the **light blue buildings** (Psychology / Speech and Language Therapy / Graphic Communication / Meteorology, Agriculture and Bioveterinary Sciences).
- Our **London Road campus** is much smaller, and all buildings and sessions can be accessed within 5 minutes of each other.



For visitors with mobility issues, we have an accessible mini-bus on site to assist with travelling around the campus if needed. All buildings in use are fully accessible.

If at any point the day feels overwhelming, or visitors need a space to sit and plan or take in everything they have seen, we also have a Quiet Room in our Carrington Building (Building no 135 on the map – room G02) – here you are welcome to sit and take time before you feel ready to explore further.





The Carrington Building with our quiet room is just past the marquee, and close to the Blue Badge parking area.

We also have a prayer room in the Student Union (the Board Room)

## How do I find my subject area?

Subject activities are taking place out in departments and are all listed in our Open Day Guide and marked on our map. Student ambassadors in green and orange t shirts will also be on hand to help you find your department of interest:



You can drop in to any of the informal sessions whenever you like. If you get to a department and a talk or session has started, it's fine to join late, or, if you prefer, staff will be happy afterwards to talk to you about any questions you may have. Departments are generally quieter areas than some of our central spaces, and tea and coffee is also available in most subject drop-in areas.



You will find lots of interactive drop in opportunities for one to one conversations with staff and students.



## Tours of accommodation, the Student Union and Campus

We offer tours of our facilities throughout the day on an informal rolling basis. There is no need to book for any of them, you can just turn up at any time, though you might like to plan when around your other timetabled sessions.

### How to see accommodation

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Just make your way to our accommodation hub and our guides will be happy to show you around – there is no need to book. If you require adapted accommodation, staff will also be on hand to talk to you about our adapted rooms and the facilities we can offer to support you. The accommodation and catering team are also in the Marquee, and can talk to you about everything from room types, safety and support in halls meal plans and catering for dietary needs.



## Campus Tours and Student Union Tours

There is no need to book, and we take groups of around 15–20 at a time. However, if you prefer or need a smaller group tour, or need to go at a slower pace or have a reduced tour, then just let our team know and we can accommodate this.



## After the event:

Our aim for the Open Days is that every visitor leaves us with all the information they need to make an informed decision about whether Reading could be the right place for them. If however you find you have further questions afterwards, we're very happy to answer them. Just email us at [opendays@reading.ac.uk](mailto:opendays@reading.ac.uk).

There'll also be lots of additional resources and opportunities to download brochures or watch helpful videos on our Open Day Portal after the event.

