

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 about the Open Days you can contact us at **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**

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 the programme available on the website, or wait until you get here and talk to staff who can help you plan your day.

We recommend you start with the subject areas you are interested in and check when these talks and activities are taking place, then fill in around this with other sessions 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 to on an informal basis as well, so you don't need to attend a session to get the answers to your questions.



Open Day programme Autumn 2026

“I feel confident and ready to take the next step.”



University of Reading

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  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 or the Open Days ask one of our friendly student ambassadors or head back to the marquee and our general information point marked with an  on the map.



Focus on your subjects of interest

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!

Getting here

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.

Park & Ride

We have available spaces at the MereOak Park and Ride which is located just south of Junction 11 on the M4 (just off the A33). From here you can catch a bus (the U1 and U2) directly onto our Whiteknights campus. The journey time is about 20 minutes. The last bus from the University to MereOak Park and Ride is 17:00.



On arrival

What do I do when I get here?

When you arrive, head 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 (see map for exact location)



- Inside the marquee does get busy at times, and we offer a quiet registration point in the **Carrington building** (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.



If you are parked on the **Earley Gate** side of campus, check-in is also available in the **Agriculture building** (building 59 on the Open Day map).

- **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?

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

You will be given a paper copy of our Open Day Programme – 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.



Images: Inside the marquee

Inside the marquee

The Open Day marquee on Whiteknights campus is our main information point where lots of areas of the University are represented, 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.

What if I am very early/late?

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

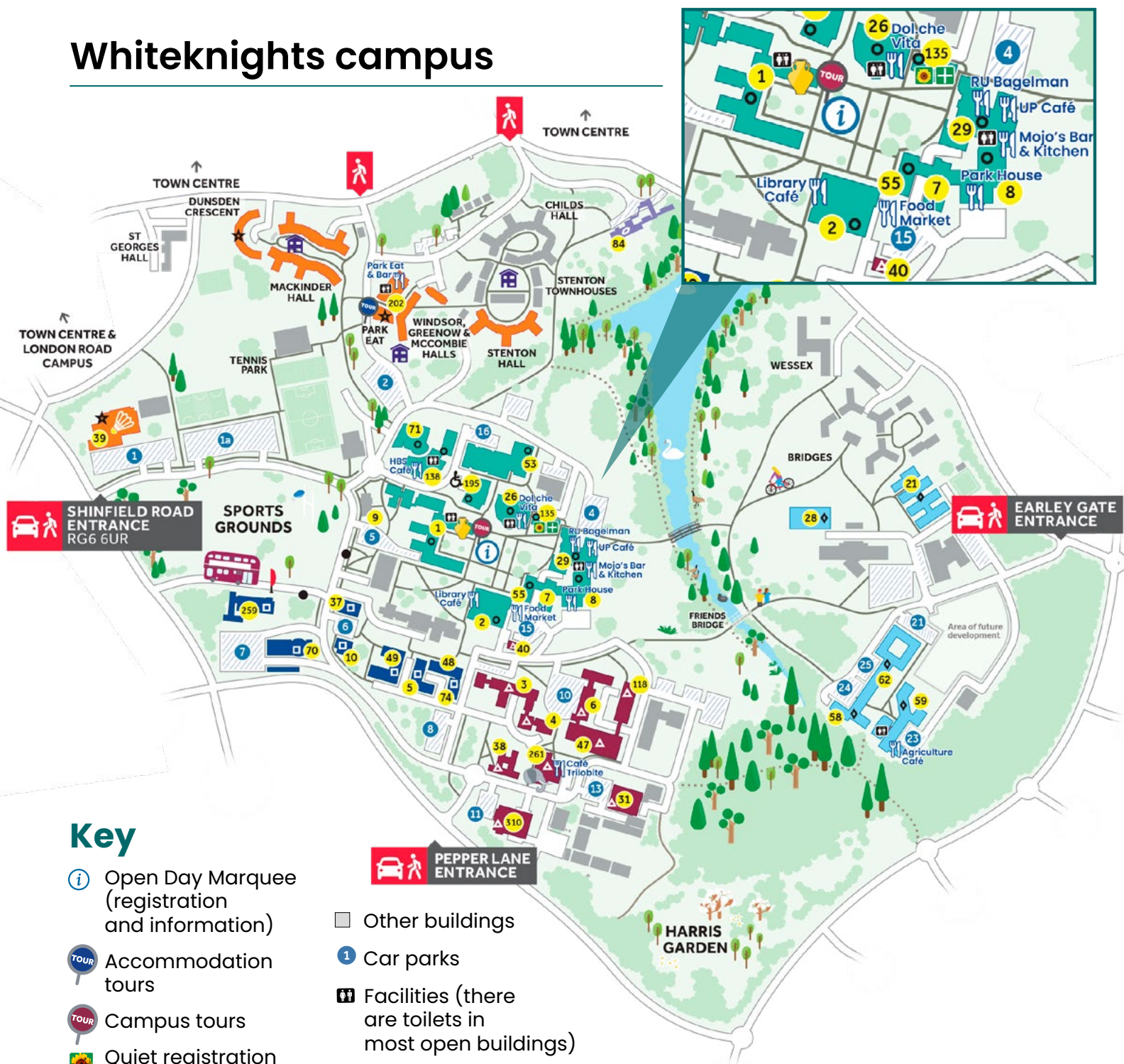
At registration – you will be given a colour coded map with a key that is specifically created for Open Days and is colour coded to help you navigate around the campuses. It can be downloaded or viewed in advance as well from the Open Day Linktree and looks like this (there is also a map for our much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

The Open Day programme includes start and finish times for all sessions to help you to plan your time 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 / Maths / 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, Computer Science) and also Art.
- 10–15 mins to get to the **navy coloured buildings** (Geography / Environmental Sciences / Archaeology / Construction Management and Surveying and 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).
- 15–20 mins to get to the **lilac buildings** (This is Foxhill House, our School of Law).
- Our **London Road campus** is much smaller, and all buildings and sessions can be accessed within 5 minutes of each other.

Whiteknights campus



Key

- Open Day Marquee (registration and information)
- Accommodation tours
- Campus tours
- Quiet registration area
- 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	Building reference
Co-op food	Cedars hotel, Whiteknights: building 55
Library	Library building, Whiteknights: 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.



For visitors with mobility issues, we have an accessible mini-bus on site to assist with travelling around the campus if needed. Ask any member of staff and we'll be able to call the bus over to you. 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 space in **The Carrington building** (building 135 on the Open Day map) – here you are welcome to sit and take time before you feel ready to explore further.

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 in departments which are listed in our Open Day Programme 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 already 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.



Throughout the day you will find lots of interactive drop in opportunities for one to one conversations with staff and students.



Tours of accommodation, the Students' 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 turn up at any time, though you might like to plan this around your other timed sessions.

How to see accommodation

Make your way to our accommodation hub and our guides will be happy to show you around – there is no need to book these tours in advance. 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 Teams are also located in the Marquee and can talk to you about everything from room types, safety and support in halls to meal plans and catering for different dietary needs.



Campus Tours and Students' Union Tours

Explore our campus and Students' Union in groups of around 15–20 at a time. If, however, you would prefer or require a smaller group, or need to go at a slower pace or have a reduced tour, then let our team know and we can accommodate this.



After the event

We hope that every visitor leaves our Open Day 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 after the event, we're very happy to answer them, just email us at **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. You will be sent details of how to access this resource after the Open Days.

