



READING SCHOLARS 2026

Year 12 Higher Education Experience

READING SCHOLARS 2026

Reading Scholars is a year long programme consisting of sixteen 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 **March**, an introductory session to the University and programme, an opportunity to meet your mentor and fellow Reading Scholars.
- In **April**, an academic session within your chosen strand.
- 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.
- 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 2026 residential. Though all events are planned to be on-campus, if required virtual events may replace in-person 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.

'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)

ARCHAEOLOGY & CLASSICS

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 ancient history, exploring different cultures and civilisations, spending time within each subject area.

Subject requirements:

You should have an interest in applying for these or 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.

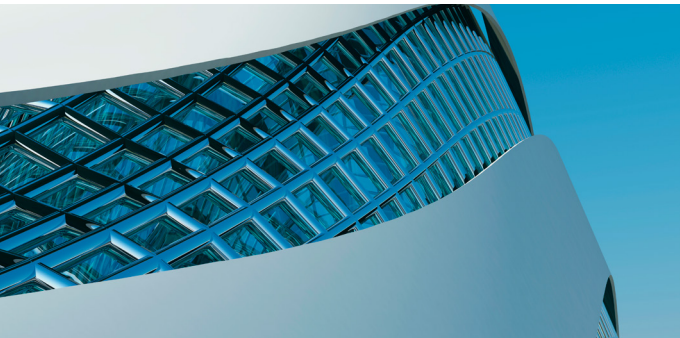


ARCHITECTURE

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.



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.



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.



HISTORY

You will participate in a range of lectures and seminars, designed to develop your knowledge and experience of History. You will experience teaching from a range of our academic staff and learn from our existing students about their experience of studying the subject.

Subject requirements:

You should be studying towards an A-Level in History or equivalent, and have an interest in applying a related subject at university.



LANGUAGES

You can choose from:

Specialise in French, Spanish or German:

You must be currently studying this at A-Level

Beginners Languages: Depending on availability you may learn one or two of the following: French, Spanish, German, Japanese, Arabic, Mandarin and Italian.

Beginners Languages with English, History or Business: experience being a Joint Honours student and take a language alongside your other chosen subject

In all 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:

For French, German, or Spanish you should be studying these languages at A Level.

For Beginners Languages and Beginners Languages with another subject experience of or an A Level in languages generally will be good experience for the strand.

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 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.



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.



PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS

You will take part in a number of interactive sessions designed to introduce you to philosophical, political and economic analysis and debate. You will participate in both seminars and lectures that focus on core topics in each subject, and you will also have the opportunity to explore the fundamental connections between the three subjects.

Subject requirements:

You should have an interest in applying for at least one of the three subjects 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.



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 the funding for this programme, participants must meet our eligibility criteria. Priority will first be given to students who meet one of more of the following:

- Living in IMD Quintile 1 Postcode.
- Living in POLAR4 Quintile 1 Postcode.
- Eligible for Free School Meals.
- In or has ever been in the care of the local authority.
- Is a Sanctuary Seeker.

Other eligibility criteria can be viewed on our website.

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.



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.
- The option to continue onto our 'Access Reading' programme in Year 13 for further support and guidance on your transition to Higher Education.

We in turn expect our

Reading Scholars students to:

- Attend all events.
- 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.

HOW DO I APPLY?

To apply for this programme, you will need to:

- Meet the eligibility criteria specified above.
- Gain consent from your school/college, and your parents/carers, to participate in this programme.
- Complete an application form available at:
reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/visiting-and-open-days/activities-for-schools/reading-scholars, specifying your first and seconds choice of strand.



Scan the QR code to view the application form

The closing date for applications is 5pm, 14 January 2025



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.

If you complete the Reading Scholars programme and apply to University of Reading we **GUARANTEE** **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

*In some cases subject or GCSE requirements may also apply to your conditional offer.



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 For more information, please contact:

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www.reading.ac.uk

¹We are the 25th Highest ranking UK University out of 90 UK Universities in the QS World University Rankings 2025

²Based on HESA data, Graduate Outcomes Survey, 2021/22; includes first degree and other undergraduate responders

