

Support for disabled students



Unexpected changes to services may be necessary due to the ongoing Coronavirus situation. The Disability Advisory Service will continue to deliver key services and these may be offered remotely.

What is DAS?

The Disability Advisory Service at the University of Reading are a team who provide confidential information, advice and guidance to students studying or intending to study here.

If you have a disability, specific learning difference, long term medical or mental health diagnosis we can work with you to make reasonable adjustments to enable you to participate fully in academic life.

There are currently over 3000 students registered with the Disability Advisory Service who have a disability or long-term health condition that impacts on their ability to study.

If you think you might require support, but are not sure if you are eligible, please get in contact with us via phone on 0118 378 4202 or email at disability@reading.ac.uk, so that we can discuss your needs.

You will always be in control of the support and adjustments, and your information is only passed on to other university teams such as your academic department, with your consent.



A breakdown of students registered with the Disability Advisory Service in 2020/21



943

Mental health conditions

Including anxiety, depression, eating disorders, bipolar disorder and personality disorders



1221

Specific learning differences

Such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia and dysgraphia. ADHD is also included in the number of supported students.



148

Physical impairments

Including wheelchair users and other physical impairments



662

Chronic Health Conditions and Other

For example; students with multiple conditions or Chronic Health Conditions such as diabetes, chronic fatigue syndrome, Crohn's disease and arthritis.



117

Sensory impairments

Deaf students and those who are hard of hearing, and students who are visually impaired



178

Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Who is eligible for support?

Students with:

- specific learning difference (SpLD) such as dyslexia and dyspraxia
- mental health diagnoses, such as depression, anxiety or an eating disorder
- long standing illnesses or health conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy and chronic fatigue syndrome
- autistic spectrum conditions
- physical or mobility difficulties
- attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- visual impairments and students who are deaf/hard of hearing.

Accessing your support

- You can register with us online through the [RISIS portal](#) and upload your medical evidence (such as GP letter or full diagnostic report for students with specific learning difficulties. Please note, we cannot accept the 'Form 8' that you might have received in school).
- We will then be in contact with you to discuss your needs.
- If you are having difficulties getting evidence, please get in touch for advice.
- Our service is confidential and the information we ask for is only passed on to other people in the university with your consent, and only to make sure you get the support you need.

The Disability Advisory Service is open all year (except Bank Holidays and on University closure days), from 10am to 4pm. We are based on the ground floor of the Carrington Building on the Whiteknights campus.

University support and adjustments

Here are some of the possible adjustments that could be discussed with a **Disability Adviser**:

Teaching and learning

The University has an inclusive teaching and learning policy and alongside this we can make further adjustments to support your individual needs. Some examples of this could be:

- informing tutors when students have a disability-related reason for missing lectures, arriving late or leaving early (except where attendance is used as a means of assessment)
- similarly, some students may need to move or stretch during lectures to alleviate discomfort due to a physical impairment or health condition, and tutors can also be made aware of this
- all students are permitted to make recordings of lectures (unless the content is confidential). If additional assistive technology is needed, such as an assistive listening device/ radio aid system, we can advise lecturers of what they may need to do to facilitate this
- in practical sessions, additional help can be requested if students struggle to follow demonstrations of written instructions, or have difficulties with physically using any of the lab equipment
- tutors can be asked to compile a glossary of course language in order to support Deaf students working with sign language interpreters.

If you require adjustments to examinations or assessments, you will need to register with the Disability Advisory Service and arrange to speak with an Adviser.

Exams and Assessments

Please contact the Disability Advisory Service as soon as possible to ensure there is enough time for adjustments to be put in place. Adjustments can include:

- additional time
- smaller exam venues
- rest breaks
- use of a computer, plus access to assistive technology
- provision of ergonomic aids, such as an adjustable chair
- 'green stickers' can be applied for students with specific learning difficulties for empathetic marking, so spelling, punctuation and grammar errors are not penalised (unless this is a specific learning outcome of the course)
- exam papers with enlarged fonts, coloured paper or use of coloured overlays.

When students are required to give presentations, adjustments may be made to present to tutor only.

Adjustments can also be made for placements. The Disability Advisory Service can discuss with you and the academic department if you have a placement for a vocational course. Examples of this could be:

- adjustments to working hours
- consideration of travel time
- parking on site
- accessibility of buildings.

Assistive Technology

Apps Anywhere is a web based tool which provides access to a range of software applications which can then be used by students using their own Windows device or from a university owned PC, from any campus location. The applications available include Texthelp Read&Write (text-to-speech) and MindManager (mind mapping), as well as Audacity, which can be used to make and edit recordings, and EndNote to help with referencing. There is also one computer within the library with Supernova available for students with visual impairments.

Library Support

The library staff can assist with:

- providing accessible electronic versions of books
- finding books for you to collect
- sourcing and creating accessible formats of materials
- accessing the library online catalogue to locate books
- 1:1 introductions to the library building, its study spaces and facilities
- using assistive technology installed on the library PC's.

To see the library's guide to finding inclusive technology to support your learning, see <https://libguides.reading.ac.uk/inclusive-technology>

For more information and support in the library, please contact library@reading.ac.uk or visit reading.ac.uk/library



Campus Accessibility

The university has three campuses; Whiteknights, London Road and Greenlands.

Whiteknights is a large campus set in parkland with a lake. Although mostly level, with gentle slopes, wheelchair users are advised to use a power assisted chair as there can be a considerable distance between buildings.

London Road is a compact and level campus. Our Education and Architecture courses are taught here. As one of the university's original sites, there are a number of older buildings which may present a challenge in terms of accessibility.

Greenlands is used by the University's Henley Business School as the base for its MBA and corporate learning, and is situated on the banks of the River Thames near Henley.

If you need to discuss accessibility, please contact the Disability Advisory Service and we can liaise with the timetabling team to:

- ensure lectures are timetabled in accessible rooms
- allow additional time for students' to travel between lectures
- request that back-to-back lectures are timetabled nearby.



Getting to the University

Buses run regularly between the Whiteknights campus and Reading town centre.

Buses have accessible features such as low floors to allow access, provision of ramps and space for a wheelchair. For more information call 0118 959 4000/ customerservices@reading-buses.co.uk visit reading-buses.co.uk

Readibus is a dial-a-ride bus service for people with restricted mobility in and around Reading. Passengers are picked up from their home and assisted if necessary. For more information, contact: 0118 931 0000 or readibus.co.uk

Students who have difficulties using public transport are also encouraged to apply for Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) to discuss possible funding towards travel by taxi if needed.

Parking

The university campuses have spaces for parking, including a number of spaces specifically for blue badge holders.

Blue badge holders should apply for a parking permit (free of charge) before the end of Welcome Week.

Students with mobility impairments or other disability-related reasons for requiring parking may also apply for a permit.

Appropriate medical evidence will be needed to support an application.

To apply, please see reading.ac.uk/parking

Academic and Social Mentoring

Academic mentoring

Students who experience organisational difficulties may benefit from additional support through our Academic Mentoring Scheme.

This support may be provided by a postgraduate student and can assist with:

- organising workloads
- prioritising work
- time management.

Academic mentoring does not provide teaching support, but aims to reduce the impact of organisational difficulties on study.

Social mentoring

Students who experience challenges managing the social side of university life may benefit from Social Mentoring support.

This support is provided by current students and they can assist with:

- questions you may have about settling in at University
- support to join clubs and societies
- orientation around campus
- meeting for a chat.

This is likely to be during the first few weeks of term, but can be for longer if needed.

If you think that this support may be useful to you, please contact the Disability Advisory Service. Eligibility will be based on medical evidence and discussion with a Disability Adviser

Other sources of support

The university has a wide range of support that can be accessed by all students and full information can be found on the university essentials website here. These services include information on:

- **Accommodation for disabled students**
reading.ac.uk/essentials/support-and-wellbeing/disability/accommodation-and-disability
- **Medical and general health** – (find the best person to help, and how to register with your local GP)
reading.ac.uk/essentials/Support-And-Wellbeing/Medical-and-General-Health-Support/Local-GPs
- **Counselling and Wellbeing** – (professional counselling, wellbeing and mental health support for students)
reading.ac.uk/essentials/support-and-wellbeing/counselling-and-wellbeing
- **Extenuating circumstances** – (if something happens that impacts your study – find out what to do)
reading.ac.uk/essentials/The-Important-Stuff/Rules-and-regulations/Exceptional-Circumstances
- **Support from your peers** –
(through peer-assisted learning and STaR mentors)
reading.ac.uk/essentials/Support-And-Wellbeing/Peer-Support
- **Support Centres** – (your first port of call for all questions, help or advice throughout your time at university)
reading.ac.uk/essentials/Support-And-Wellbeing/Support-Arrangements/student-support
- **Study Advice and Maths support team**
reading.ac.uk/essentials/study/study-support
- **Religious and spiritual care**
reading.ac.uk/essentials/support-and-wellbeing/religious-and-spiritual-care

Continued overleaf ►

In addition, the **Students' Union (RUSU – rusu.co.uk)** has independent advisers who give advice on general students matters including money matters, harassment, housing and many more topics. You can find additional information on their website at rusu.co.uk/advice.



i If you have any questions, please contact DAS for a chat.

Disability Advisory Service

Carrington Building, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 6UA

Tel: 0118 378 4202

Email: disability@reading.ac.uk

reading.ac.uk/essentials/support-and-wellbeing/disability