

Self-Guided Tour

Whiteknights Campus

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY AND TO OUR MAIN CAMPUS AT WHITEKNIGHTS!

Before you start the tour, please make sure that you have downloaded a copy of the accompanying map or that you pick one up, on your arrival, from the Student Recruitment & Schools Liaison Office, Room 131, Whiteknights House. We also recommend that you wear comfortable shoes and bring an umbrella, as we have a very large, 320-acre parkland campus for you to explore!

Finally, please be aware of cars and cyclists whilst walking around campus – the lovely views can be quite distracting!

START THE TOUR at the North Entrance of Whiteknights House (Building 27 on the map).

Whiteknights House [pictured above right] is the central admin block for the University and is where, as a student, you will go to pay your fees, ask about loans and scholarships, check exam timetables, arrange for graduation tickets and more. The Student Recruitment & Schools Liaison Office is also based in this building in Room 131 on the first floor, should you need to ask any further questions after your tour.



Turn left and walk through the car park until you get to the road (Queen's Drive). Turn right and follow the footpath past Old Whiteknights House (housing the Graduate School of Social Sciences) to the next junction. Do not cross the road.



If you look to your left, to the end of Queen's Drive, you will see the Wolfenden Sports Centre on the right (building 39 on the map). It offers many facilities including a sports hall that can be booked for a wide variety of activities, our recently refurbished VO₂ Fitness Studio [artist impression pictured left], a free weights room, martial arts and dance studio and four squash courts. Outside there are sports fields for a range of sports, tennis courts and a synthetic turf pitch. Reading has a good reputation for its inclusive sports programme and has its own Sports Academy

for elite sports persons as well as Sports Scholarships. We offer every form of sport you can imagine from beginner to expert and number Olympic rowing medallists amongst our alumni and current students.

Optional add-on If you are interested in visiting the Sports Centre, you can either do so now and then retrace your steps, or visit on your way home, as there is parking available outside the Centre. Either

way, please identify yourselves to the staff at the Reception Desk; they will be happy to show you around.

At the junction, cross the pedestrian crossing in front of you. Turn right and continue along the footpath, bearing left, until you come to a second pedestrian crossing.

Ahead of you is Windsor Hall of Residence [pictured right]. The older part houses undergraduates and is fully catered, whilst the newer blocks are for postgraduates. Windsor Hall, one of 13 very different Halls of Residence at Reading, was opened in 1964 and is a six-storey building that offers panoramic views of campus. It has 202 single study bedrooms with access to bathroom and kitchenette facilities. Other facilities in the Hall



include a laundry room with washing machines and tumble dryers, a computer room, television room and a bar, which is also the Junior Common Room. You can use your own computer and printer in your room and access your emails and the Internet via the University network.



With your back to Windsor Hall, cross the pedestrian crossing, turn right and walk along the side of the glass-fronted ICMA (International Capital Market Association; building 71 on the map) Centre [pictured above]. Follow the footpath round the building to the front of the ICMA Centre.

The ICMA Centre is a unique facility in Europe and offers training in stocks and shares in its dedicated share-dealing rooms. Feel free to take a look around and grab a coffee.

Continue walking along the footpath past the ICMA Centre until you come to a low-rise building on your left, set back from the path.

The building on your left is the Language Resource Centre (building 42). Here you can use the facilities to teach yourself a foreign language, keep your knowledge of a language going, or learn a language through our Institution-Wide Language Programme (IWLP) either as an accredited part of your programme or purely out of interest. The IWLP currently offers the following languages for study: Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Greek (modern), Italian, Japanese and Spanish.

You can see the Humanities and Social Sciences Building ('HumSS'; building 1) on your right. HumSS houses many of the humanities and social science departmental corridors as well as some teaching rooms and lecture theatres. Subjects based here include: Applied English Language Studies, Classics, Economics, English, French, German, History, History of Art, Italian, Philosophy, Politics and Sociology. Departments house many different resources including: administrative staff, academic staff, notice-boards and other resources such as computer labs and departmental libraries. Notice-boards are found in most departments and contain information about your course. They are also used by students to advertise their second-hand course books. Books can also be bought from the numerous bookshops in Reading town centre or ordered online. Before you buy books; you can always, of course, borrow books from the library!



Continue along the footpath and go down the steps and up the steps on the other side of the path. Cross the road and stop in front of the tower block. This is the Animal and Microbial Sciences (AMS) building (building 30 on the map).

The AMS building houses the **Cole Museum of Zoology**, one of three university museums. Established in the 20th century, the museum is unusual in offering a comprehensive tour of the diversity of forms of the *entire* animal kingdom under one roof. The highlights include skeletons of a male Indian Elephant, a Killer Whale and a five-metre Reticulated Python. Current students and visiting parties of school children make use of this resource in their studies.

Optional add-on Please feel free to go inside and take a look. Opening times are: 9.00am – 4.30pm, Monday to Friday. Admission is free.

With your back to the AMS building, the HumSS building is in front of you.

This building houses another of the university's museums, **The Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology** and, amongst other things, houses one of the largest collections of Greek ceramics in Britain. It is open 9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Admission is free.



Optional add-on If you wish to visit The Ure Museum now, then follow the path around the car park, keeping the HumSS building on your right. Turn right into the semi-quad and enter the building through the entrance at the end of the quad on your right. Once inside turn right and follow the corridor round to the end until you find The Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology. Identify yourselves to the staff on arrival; they will be happy to help. When you have finished your visit, exit by the same entrance and retrace your steps.



Optional add-on If you are interested in knowing where the School of Law (building 84) [pictured left] is, now would be a good time to do so. Turn left and follow the footpath leading behind the white Palmer Building, follow this path across the road and down to the lake. Continue straight on, passing Childs Hall on your left and you will come to the beautiful Law School building [pictured above left]. Retrace your steps to rejoin the tour later.

Follow the path ahead and turn left to enter the Palmer Building by the side entrance.

The Palmer Building (building 26) [pictured right] is one of our main lecture blocks and contains lecture theatres, seminar rooms and two large IT labs, one of which is accessible 24 hours a day. You will probably have some of your lectures in here and possibly take your exams here too. Its largest lecture theatre plays host to the Reading Film Theatre on Monday evenings as well as to the weekly free Lunchtime Concert series. The Palmer Building also house *Dolc^He Vita*, one of many coffee bars on campus.



Walk through the Palmer Building and take a look around. Exit the building by the entrance next to Dolc^He Vita. Turn left and walk towards the low-rise and glass-fronted buildings in front of you. This is the Students' Union.

Building Works on Campus The University is spending £275 million across campus on new and existing developments to improve the student experience. The building works on your left is the new Student Services Building, a one-stop-shop where students will be able to get most of their administrative needs handled under one roof. The building is due to open in autumn 2007.

Make your way into RUSU, the Reading University Students' Union building (building 29).

The Union has recently been redeveloped at a cost of £2.6 million. To the right of the main entrance is the Union's main reception desk, Membership Services – the Union's one-stop advice shop - and The

Hub, the university's centre for student volunteering. The Union currently runs around 100 clubs and societies and, if we don't offer the club or society you are interested in, you are encouraged to set up your own with the help of a subsidy from the Union. This part of the Union also houses a Media Centre where *Spark*, our student weekly newspaper, and *Junction 11*, the Union's radio station are run. **Follow the corridor further into the building.** From where you are standing you can see the Students' Union shop (*R U Being Served*) where you can buy basic groceries, stationery and newspapers, and the very popular all-day breakfast bar, *CerealWorks*. There is often a second-hand book and CD market stall here too.

Make your way through the doors opposite *R U Being Served*, go through the games areas and down the stairs. Turn left and go through the double doors in front of you.

You are currently in *3Sixty* [pictured right] our own student nightclub complex where there are club and comedy nights, quizzes and live music events taking place every week. You can also just go here to chill, have a drink at the bar, or meet friends for a coffee and sandwich upstairs.



Go back through the double doors where you entered and walk straight ahead towards the exit.

Mojo's and *Café Mondial* are housed at the end of the corridor. *Café Mondial*, on the left, is a café-bar and serves a wide selection of coffee and other hot drinks as well as pastries and toasted sandwiches. A great place to chill and read the daily newspapers! *Mojo's* is much more of a pub environment with pool tables, big screen sports and pub grub ordered from the bar. **Please feel free to take a look inside.**

Leave the Students' Union by the exit between *Café Mondial* and *Mojo's*. Turn left and follow the footpath down towards the meadow and trees. At the t-junction in the path, turn right and follow the path down to the lake. Cross the bridge over Whiteknights Lake.

Optional add-on If you are feeling energetic, you might want to take a walk all the way around Whiteknights Lake. If you do, take the path to your left, follow the lake round and rejoin the tour at the same bridge.

Walk up to the t-junction in the footpaths.

This end of campus is known as *Earley Gate*. If you look up to your left you can see Bridges Hall of Residence and ahead of you, on the rise, is the Department of Meteorology's on-site Weather Monitoring Station.

Turn right and follow the path next to the lake until the split in the junction.

The Departments of Agriculture, Fine Art, Meteorology, Psychology, Applied Statistics and Typography are based at this end of campus, just a five-minute walk from central campus, as the crow flies!

Optional add-on Please use your map to locate departments /explore this end of campus, if you wish.



Turn right across the white bridge, *Friends Bridge* [pictured left], and walk along the footpath back towards the centre of campus. Carry on until you reach the road. Cross the road and follow the footpath straight ahead of you until the next junction.

Departments on your left and towards the Pepper Lane entrance of the university are in the 'science zone' of campus. They include Archaeology, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Cybernetics, Electronic Engineering, Food Biosciences, Horticulture, Mathematics, and Pharmacy.

Optional add-on Feel free to locate your Department of interest, using the map to guide you.

To your left, beyond the red/glass Chemistry/Pharmacy building (building 6) and beyond the white Food Biosciences building (building 47) are our growing fields, glass houses and our on-campus Botanic Garden, the Harris Garden. This is well worth a visit if you have time. To the right, through the trees, you will see *Park House*, one of the original campus buildings, housing the Senior Common Room.

Cross the junction at the entrance to the Chemistry car park and turn right half-way across. Cross the road and make your way down the footpath past the cedar trees. The Cedar Food Mall is in front of you. Feel free to go inside and take a look.

Many students will live in catered or self-catered Halls but the university also has a number of central catering outlets. These include the Cedar Food Mall (building 7; open 10.00am to 3.00pm) which houses *Indigo* and the *Cedar Room*, the largest and main central catering outlets on campus serving everything from all-day breakfast to stir-fries, pasta dishes, salads, roast dinners and baguettes. There are many other outlets that serve light bites such as jacket potatoes and toasted sandwiches. These can be found in Agriculture, ICMA, HumSS, the Urban & Regional Studies building, and the Students' Union.

Turn left and pass in front of the Cedar Food Mall. Cross the road and pass Black Horse House, part of our conference facilities.

Also in Black Horse House is a Lloyds TSB Bank branch. There is a Nat West branch just off campus across the road from the main entrance on Queens Drive and all the major banks/building societies can be found in Reading town centre, a short distance away.

You are now back in the central quad of the university campus and to your left is the main university library.

Walk along the path next to the Library (building 2) and turn left to find its entrance. Go inside and explore. Staff may ask to sign you in.



Our main library [*pictured left*] houses more than 1.2 million volumes and 3,500 subscriptions to various journals as well as various CDROM databases and access to remote online datasets. This is where you will find your core texts, study for exams, write essays; or do your photocopying! If you're uncertain about using library catalogues or certain software packages that you need for your studies, the library staff provide written self-help guides and training courses, especially for Freshers.

On the first floor of the library is our S@IL (Student Access to Independent Learning) Centre. Here you can drop in and surf the internet, practise an oral presentation, finish your course assignment, work together in a group, find out how you can better prepare for exams, improve your essay-writing skills, or find a space to work on your own laptop. The S@IL Centre also houses over 100 of the university's 600 PCs available to students, here with open access and wireless internet connection.

There is a further library at our second campus site at Bulmershe Court, half a mile away.

With your back to the library, you can see the Urban and Regional Sciences (URS) building to your left.

This is where we teach construction, surveying, and real estate and planning programmes. Behind this building lie the Geography and Geosciences buildings, the Accommodation Office, the main Careers Advisory Service and Job Shop, and the International and Study Abroad Office.

Optional add-on Please use your map to locate and explore this part of the campus, if you wish.

Off to your right you can also see the other side of the HumSS building.

Turn right and walk back towards the main quad. Turn left alongside the HumSS building and you will see Whiteknights House, where you started your tour, directly in front of you.

We hope you have enjoyed your visit to the University of Reading.
Please feel free to contact us again if you have any further questions.
Have a safe journey home!

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OPEN DAYS: JUNE & SEPTEMBER EVERY YEAR

If you would like to visit us again, you might like to attend one of our Open Days?

See: **www.reading.ac.uk/life/life-opendays.asp**