

Summer Term Subject Tasters



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Real Estate

10am - 4pm 17th June 2025



At this free-of-charge event, you'll get the opportunity to experience what studying real estate at the University of Reading will be like.

Participate in engaging sessions with our outstanding academics, analyse case studies, and consider a range of perspectives across different stakeholder groups. You'll also hear about the full range of courses we offer in this subject area, as well as meet current real estate students and find out about their experiences. The Taster Day will be held at our main Whiteknights campus, allowing you to get a real feel for life at the University of Reading.

[Sign up now](#) and we'll be in touch with further details.

English Literature:

10:30am – 4pm 25th June 2025



This taster day will give you a preview of life at university studying English literature and English language. Through interactive talks and seminars, you'll get a flavour of some of our popular first-year modules.

You'll also get to meet members of staff and students, and learn about how we teach and support our students. As well as taking a tour of our campus, where you'll get to see our student facilities, Library, and SportsPark, you'll be able to chat one-to-one with our students to find out more about life at the University of Reading.

Make the most of your Taster Day

- Let us know if you have any accessibility requirements when you [book your place](#).
- Arrive with plenty of time! We'll send you a schedule about a week before the event.
- Consider what you want to gain from the day and prepare any questions for our staff and students.

Education Studies

9:30am - 3pm 30th June 2025

This free-of-charge taster day provides the perfect opportunity to learn about the Education Studies course curriculum. You will discover what it's like to be a student of Education Studies at degree level. Within the taster day we will examine and explore several themes and questions, such as:

- What is education and what is it for?
- Where does/can education take place and why is it so important, in the context of climate, social justice, and capitalism?

You will receive an overview of the Education Studies course and take a tour of the London Road campus. You will partake in a group activity, creating your own vision of an alternative education system.

This taster day will be particularly of interest to students studying sociology, or psychology, or who are interested in studying BA Education Studies.

Please note, this taster day covers educational themes but it is not a taster day for those students wishing to study BA Primary Education with QTS.

This taster day will be held at our London Road campus and will run from approximately 09:30-15:00 allowing you time to really immerse yourself in the subject and relevant department.

Making the most of your taster day

- Let us know any accessibility requirements when you [book your place](#).
- Make sure to arrive with plenty of time - you will be sent a schedule for the day about a week prior to the taster day.
- Think about what you want to get out of the day, and prepare any questions for staff and students.

Meteorology

10am – 4pm 8th July 2025

Sign up to our taster day to discover what it would be like to study your meteorology at degree level. Meet current staff and students, explore campus (including our atmospheric observatory) and learn the benefits of studying at Reading.

You will participate in three hands-on sessions providing you with an understanding of the course content and what it's like to actually study these subjects at university level.

Atmospheric Observatory Tour

In this tour, you'll explore how we've been recording weather here since 1901, building over a century of continuous climate data. You'll see modern automatic instruments in action – collecting temperature, rainfall, and more every second of the day – and learn how this vital data supports both climate research and student learning.

Fluid Lab

In this session, we will look at laboratory experiments that capture basic fluid processes occurring in the atmosphere and oceans. One key aspect of oceanic and atmospheric circulations is that they sit on a rotating Earth, which does not always fit well with our intuition of how fluids move. These types of experiments are helpful both for teaching and for advancing research.

Weather Observation

There are many ways of observing and recording the weather beyond the more traditional instruments on our atmospheric observatory. In this session we will look at how modern technology helps us monitor the weather and how important this is for making accurate weather forecasts.

[Book your place](#) on this Taster Day.

Chemistry, Food and Nutritional Sciences



10am – 4pm 10th July 2025

General Chemistry (morning)

Curious about chemistry? Step into the lab and get hands-on with real research! Join us for an interactive lab session where you'll explore the green, solvent-free synthesis of chalcones – a fascinating class of bioactive compounds – and characterise them via spectroscopy.

Chalcones are key building blocks in pharmaceutical research, with potential anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial and anticancer properties. They are also of interest in cosmetic formulations due to their antioxidant activity, making them valuable in skincare and anti-aging products.

Explore the university lab experience, work with sustainable chemistry techniques, and discover how chemistry impacts the world around us.

Cosmetic Chemistry (afternoon)

Ever wondered what goes into your favourite skincare and beauty products? Step into the lab and experience the science behind cosmetics! In this interactive session, you'll get the chance to formulate, test and personalise your very own cosmetic product before packaging it in a professional container.

From luxurious lotions to innovative personal care, cosmetic science combines chemistry, creativity and cutting-edge research to develop products that are safe, effective and sustainable. This hands-on session will give you a taste of what it's like to be a cosmetic chemist, working with real ingredients and industry techniques.

Flavour Illusions: Exploring the Science of the Senses! (morning)

Step into the world of sensory science with this activity. Students will explore how their senses work together to perceive aromas and flavours through fun experiments that challenge their expectations. From blind taste tests to aroma identification, this activity will showcase the surprising ways our brains interpret sensory information.

Sustainability Challenge - Mayo Reimagined (afternoon)

In food manufacturing there are often different needs to consider. In this session, you will be exploring how to reformulate mayonnaise for different needs – such as reduced fat, enhanced flavour, or plant-based alternatives – whilst considering nutrition, technology, sensory and business factors. You will have the opportunity to test and compare the viscosity of a few different mayonnaise formulations, within the University pilot plant, to see how reformulation can affect the product's properties.

[Book your place](#) on this Taster Day.

Pharmacy and Pharmacology

10:00 - 4pm 9th July 2025

This free-of-charge event provides a perfect opportunity to learn about the course curriculum and discover what it would be like to study Pharmacy or Pharmacology at degree level. You will have the opportunity to meet current staff and students, as well as explore campus and the benefits of studying at Reading.

Attendees will participate in two taster sessions:

Pharmacy in Action - Think Like a Pharmacist

Ready to jump into the world of pharmacy? Join our interactive taster session where you'll dive into the world of patient care using exciting simulation tools, take on real patient case studies, chat with virtual patients and make key decisions.

Great for aspiring pharmacists and students interested in how technology is reshaping healthcare education, this session is hands-on, high-tech and a whole lot of fun.

Pharmacology - The Science Behind Pain Relief

Ever wondered how pain is sensed and how it can be switched off?

Whether you're curious about neuroscience or drug action, join us for a hands-on session where you'll explore the fascinating world of anaesthetics as a pharmacologist.

In this activity you'll discover how your body detects pain and how anaesthetics interfere with pain signal – no needles involved, just science!

Making the most of your taster day

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Languages and Cultures

10:30am - 4pm 30th June 2025

Discover what it is like to study languages at degree level at the University of Reading on our summer Taster Day!

Students will have the chance to explore the politics and culture of another country in the morning, followed by a taster session in another language in the afternoon. Sessions will be delivered by staff from the Department of Languages and Cultures. You will also have the chance to speak with current students and take a look around the beautiful campus.

Suitable for Year 12 students, especially those who are studying Spanish, French, Italian, or German at A level or have studied a modern foreign language through GCSE. There will also be opportunities to find out about picking up new languages from beginner's level, including Arabic, British Sign Language, Japanese and Mandarin.

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Travel Bursaries

The University of Reading is committed to ensuring that its outreach programmes are accessible for all. We offer a Travel Bursary that prospective students may apply for on campus taster events, and if successful would cover the entire cost of their travel. Certain eligibility criteria applies*. There is an option to apply for this on the each event booking form.



*Eligibility criteria for the travel bursary:

Students must fulfil at least one of the following criteria:

1. The individual has no parental experience of university.
 2. The individual lives in an identified postcode area which has low progression into HE (POLAR quintiles 1 or 2).
 3. The individual lives in a postcode area which is identified as being an area of social deprivation (IMD Quintile 1 or 2).
 4. The individual comes from a group that is under-represented in HE The individual has a disability.
 5. The individual is care-experienced or estranged (read [our Care experienced & estranged students support page](#) for definitions).
- Find out more and sign up [here](#).

Open Days



Come and experience our campus, facilities and accommodation at one of our Summer Open Days. These are great opportunity to get a feel of university life, chat to current students, and ask staff and academics about the courses that you are interested in.

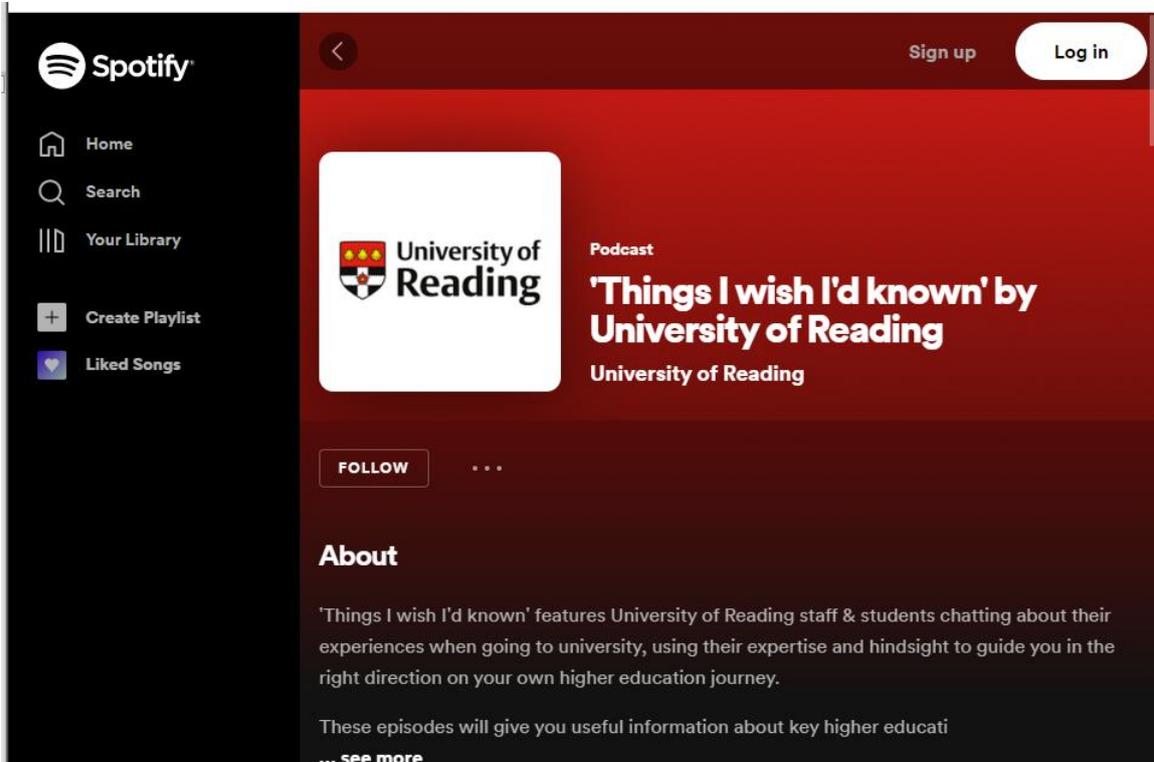
On these Open Days, all subject areas will be open. You will be able to attend subject talks, tours and hands on sessions.

This year's Open Days are:

- Friday 20th June
- Saturday 21st June

See our Open Day webpage, and book in on our website [here](#).

Listen to our podcast



"Things I wish I'd known..." podcast

This podcast series is a fantastic resource for those in Years 10-13, who are looking for more information and advice whilst researching going to university.

'Things I wish I'd known' features University of Reading staff and students chatting about their experiences when going to university, using their expertise and hindsight to guide you in the right direction on your own higher education journey.

- Check out our show on [Spotify](#).