

Further Information Provided by the University of Reading for NAFA

The University of Reading has links with a large number of overseas universities. It currently receives students from over 115 different countries. Within the United States it receives students (for example, via the Junior Year Abroad scheme) from the following universities:

The University of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia
The University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island
George Mason University, Fairfax, North Virginia
University of Illinois
Penn State University
Kansas University
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri
The University of Oklahoma
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

The University offers excellent support for its international students from our International Office and Student Services Directorate. In 2007 we opened a new student services building providing a one-stop shop for students. This is complemented by the offerings of our active Students Union who run a very diverse range of social and sporting clubs and societies.

We are offering the Marshall Scholarship in one of the following areas of excellence within the University.

Meteorology & Environmental Sciences

The Department of Meteorology is internationally renowned for its excellent teaching and research in atmospheric, oceanic and climate science. Established in 1965, it is the only UK University to offer a full range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in meteorology. In 2006, it was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education. The Department hosts the University's new cross disciplinary Centre of Excellence, the Walker Institute for Climate Systems Sciences, which brings together researchers in meteorology, environmental, agricultural, biological, and social sciences within the University. Cross disciplinary work in this area includes that in our School of Construction Management and Engineering where there is a specialist postgraduate training programme in Technologies for Sustainable Built Environments.

Biomedical Sciences and Nutrition

The University of Reading has considerable strength within, and first class facilities to support, research and teaching in medical bioscience and has recently moved into a new state of the art building to support its work. Biomedical Sciences is one of the three major divisions of our School of Biological Sciences. Research is aimed at advancing knowledge underpinning human health with a focus on cardiovascular and metabolic health. This group works closely with researchers in the Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences where there is an internationally recognised group of researchers investigating nutritional aspects of cardiovascular and metabolic health. There is also a very strong group of researchers specialising in gut health including aspects of immune function and impact of gut microbe composition on human health. In the 2008 RAE, the quality of 90% of the department's research activity was considered to be internationally recognised with 15% of this being assessed as "world-leading" and a further 40% being classed as "internationally excellent". In recognition of the strengths in these areas across the two Schools, the University has recently established a new research Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research.

Food Security

The University has long standing internationally recognised excellence in Agriculture and Food demonstrated by its position as 8th in the world citation index and recently ranked number 1 in the UK Guardian league tables. Facilities include dairy farms and associated specialist research units, field work stations, plant environment laboratories as well as a fully equipped food processing pilot plant in the Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences. The importance of our research in sustainable agriculture, agricultural biodiversity and impact of food on human health has lead us to establish a Centre of Excellence in Food Security which is working closely with UK government and Research Council's to respond to the challenges of future global food supplies.

Psychology and Neuroscience

The Department of Psychology has a long standing reputation for excellence in research and teaching across a broad range of psychology. In recent years it has becoming a leading centre in developmental psychology, neuroscience, ageing, virtual reality and multimedia interactions, complementing its more traditional strengths in experimental psychology. Its newly formed Centre in Brain Behaviour and Health provides excellent facilities to support cross-cutting research. To complement this, the University has newly established a Centre for Neuroscience and Neurodynamics, which brings researchers from Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences together with researchers in Pharmacy, Mathematics, Food Sciences, Biological Sciences and Cybernetics. In 2009 the Centre was equipped with a whole body fMRI scanner which forms the core component of a specialist research and training centre in advanced techniques in brain imaging research.

Archaeology

The University has an international reputation for research and teaching excellence in archaeology and in 2009 was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in recognition of its outstanding research and outreach. In the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008), Reading was top of the UK league table for world leading, internationally outstanding research in Archaeology (4*). Reading was awarded the highest percentage of 4* grades in the UK, for work in Archaeology that is world leading and internationally outstanding in terms of originality, significance and rigour. Our overall average (2.95) places Reading 2nd in the league table of 26 departments. It is housed within a new modern building and, as part of the School of Human and Environmental Sciences, has access to a wide range of excellent scientific facilities, laboratories and expertise. Research interests focus on European and Mediterranean archaeology from early prehistory to the later medieval period, and on social archaeology, environmental and forensic archaeology.

Philosophy and Classics

The Departments of Philosophy and Classics sit within our School of Humanities. In the last Research Assessment Exercise conducted by the UK government (2008), we were ranked third best department in the UK. Philosophy at Reading was recently ranked in the Leiter Report on graduate programmes in the top ten departments in the UK, equal to departments in the US such as Carnegie Mellon, Georgetown, and Virginia. Key research areas include moral philosophy, philosophy of mind, early modern philosophy, metaphysics, and philosophy of language, science, and religion. Classics at Reading is well known for its innovative research and teaching of classical studies that span the Aegean in pre-history to the fall of the Roman Empire. They have particular strengths in ancient religions, reception studies and postcolonialism, Greek literature,

gender, historiography, and late antiquity and the Middle Ages. The research environment benefits considerably from the presence of the Ure Museum within the Department.