

# Entrance Requirements

## The General Entrance Requirement

(1) To ensure that its students have a reasonable level of education across a range of subjects, the University expects all entrants to satisfy a minimum general entrance requirement.

(2) Entry Requirements – Undergraduate Programmes:

- (a) The University welcomes applications from appropriately qualified applicants offering a wide range of qualifications including A-Levels, Advanced Diplomas, Scottish Highers, Irish Leaving Certificates, International Baccalaureates, European Baccalaureates, BTEC National Diplomas and Certificates, Higher National Diplomas and Certificates, Access/Foundation programmes, as well as many other recognised national and international qualifications.

(NB: GCSE pass or equivalent at Grade C or above in English Language and Mathematics is normally expected).

- (b) The University prospectus should provide clear guidance on entry requirements, and any specific experience or skills required for specific programmes of study, in addition to the general offer level for each programme. Further information is also contained in the Entry Profiles attached to each programme offered via the Universities and Colleges Admissions System and these can be found at: [www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch](http://www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch)

(c) United Kingdom Post-16 Qualifications

Students seeking admission to the University of Reading should be able to offer at least one of the following Post-16 qualifications:

- i. General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Level and General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) or equivalent passes as follows:  
 Pass (Grade E or better) in a minimum of two 6-unit awards (A-levels) and passes at Grade C or better in three further subjects at GCSE or equivalent or  
 Pass (Grade E or better) in a minimum of three 6-unit awards (A-levels) and a pass at Grade C or better in one further subject at GCSE or equivalent.
- ii. (Advanced) Vocational Certificate of Education ((A)VCE) and General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) or equivalent passes as follows:  
 Pass (Grade E or better) in a minimum of two 6-unit awards **OR** one 12-unit award, and passes at Grade C or better in three further subjects at GCSE or equivalent or  
 Pass (Grade E or better) in a minimum of three 6-unit awards **OR** one 12-unit award and one 6-unit award and a pass at Grade C or better in one further subject at GCSE or equivalent.

- iii. A pass in a BTEC National Diploma or BTEC National certificate, if supported by passes at Grade C or better in four subjects at GCSE or equivalent.
  - iv. A pass in a BTEC Higher National Diploma or a BTEC Higher National Certificate.
  - v. Scottish Qualifications as follows:  
A minimum of four passes (Grade C or better) in Highers **OR** three passes (grade C or better) in Advanced Highers, if supported by a pass at Grade C or better in one further subject at Standard Level.
  - vi. Irish Leaving Certificates as follows:  
A minimum of five passes (Grade C or better) at the Higher Level.
  - vii. The International Baccalaureate Diploma.
  - viii. The European Baccalaureate.
  - ix. A pass at an appropriate level in a recognised Access/Foundation programme.
  - x. Appropriate credits obtained in an Open University programme.
  - xi. A Bachelor or Foundation degree of a University of the United Kingdom or an equivalent degree awarded by the Council for National Academic Awards.
- (d) International Qualifications
- The equivalence of international qualifications will be determined having regard to independently published guidelines recognised within the United Kingdom higher education sector, such as UK Naric and UCAS.
- (NB: For admission to the University of Reading International Foundation Programme for international students only, the minimum entry requirement is: Passes at Grade C or better in five subjects at GCSE, or the equivalent)
- (e) English Language Qualifications
- Applicants must have competence in English Language and most programmes require GCSE English Language at Grade C or better, **OR** an equivalent qualification.
- Applicants whose first language is not English will normally be required to achieve one of a number of English Language qualifications approved by the University which is published in the University prospectus. The level required will be dependent on the programme of study to be undertaken.
- (f) Admission on Assessment of Prior Learning
- i. Acceptance of prior learning for credit purposes is at the discretion of the University and its Schools.
  - ii. Certificated credit obtained from another institution can be recognised in one of two ways:
    - Exemption from individual modules within or from the whole of part 1 or 2 of an undergraduate programme

or

- Transfer of credit and marks in substitution for specific modules within an undergraduate programme.

Exemption from individual modules is not normally permissible where the module contributes to the classification of an undergraduate qualification. Exemption is therefore likely to be restricted to part 1 of an undergraduate programme.

Credit transfer applies in all cases where the module replaced contributes to undergraduate classification.

(g) European Credit Transfer Scheme (ECTS)

The University operates the European Credit Transfer Scheme.

(h) Admissions on the Basis of Prior Experiential Learning

- i. The assessment of prior experiential learning (APEL) is at the discretion of the University and its Schools.
- ii. The evidence for acceptance of prior experiential learning must demonstrate that it meets the coverage of the relevant modules in terms of the outline content and assessable learning outcomes of the module, and is appropriate to the level of the module.
- iii. APEL will normally be limited to a maximum of one third of a programme of study.

Further information can be found at:

[http://www.rdg.ac.uk/Handbooks/Teaching\\_and\\_Learning/apel.htm#Policy](http://www.rdg.ac.uk/Handbooks/Teaching_and_Learning/apel.htm#Policy)

(3) Entry Requirements – Postgraduate Taught Programmes

- (a) The University welcomes applications from appropriately qualified applicants, having normally achieved at least an upper second class honours degree in their undergraduate studies, or an equivalent international qualification.
- (b) Applicants with appropriate professional experience will also be considered for postgraduate degree programmes.
- (c) English Language Qualifications

Applicants must have competence in English Language and most programmes require GCSE English Language at Grade C or better, or an equivalent qualification.

Applicants whose first language is not English will normally be required to achieve one of a number of English Language qualifications approved by the University which is published in the University prospectus. The level required will be dependent on the programme of study to be undertaken.

## Choice of GCSE subjects

Although it does not form part of the general entry requirement, it is hoped that applicants will have passed English Language and Mathematics at Grade C or better at GCSE. Some degree programmes require students to have passed these and/

or other subjects. Note that entrants to certain professions (including teaching) are required to have passed English Language and Mathematics.

**Choice of A-level, Advanced Supplementary, Advanced Subsidiary or equivalent qualification subjects**

A minority of degree programmes require a particular subject to have been taken at A-level, Advanced Subsidiary or equivalent. Full details of programme requirements in terms of 'named subjects' are to be found in the Undergraduate Prospectus and on the prospectus website.

Applicants who have queries about qualifications not listed here, or about admission criteria, should contact the Admissions Office of the relevant Faculty for advice.