

Reading Scholars Eligibility Criteria

Reading Scholars is a three year programme (start of year 10 to end of year 12), with two entry points. Participants can start the programme if they attend a participating school in Year 10, or as an individual (with the support of their school/college) in Year 12. Participants can choose to leave the programme prior to the beginning of the Year 12 programme. The below tables set out the criteria for participants to be eligible for a place on the programme:

Year 10 entry point		Year 12 entry point	
Participating students must:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attend a participating school - Be on track or potential to achieve five GCSE grade C (4) or above - Have the interest and motivation to attend all Reading Scholars events held at the University 	Participating students must:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be attending a state school/college – school/college will be asked to validate and support application made by the student - Be on track or potential to achieve at least three B grades at A-Level or equivalent (specific subjects required for some strands)
		Group A: High priority group – will be offered place on chosen strand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In or has been in care of local authority for at least 13 weeks since age of 14 - Asylum seeker/refugee - Estranged from family (in Friends and Family Care) - Carer for family member who may be sick, disabled or has mental health problems, or is misusing drugs or alcohol (Young Carer)
Participating students should hit one or more:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eligible to receive free school meals - Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic - Live in low participation in HE neighbourhood* - Have a disability 	Group B: Medium priority group – places awarded by number of criteria met if no group A criteria met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eligible for free school meals and/or discretionary school payments - Family income of less than £25,000 - Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic - Live in low participation in HE neighbourhood* - Has a disability - Existing participant on Reading Scholars programme
Participating schools should select ten students who are interested in participating in the programme and who meet the above criteria. The same ten students should attend all events. Schools will be required to provide details on the eligibility criteria the students they support to participate in the programme hit (anonymised), along with attainment data (anonymised) for these students at the beginning and at the end of the programme. Schools will also be asked to complete a schools agreement form, and participating individuals will be asked to complete a short form with basic information (postcode, D.o.B, e-mail address etc).		Group C: Low priority group – places awarded by number of criteria met if no group A or B criteria met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No parental attendance at HE (in case of two parent household this to mean both parents), excluding mature students - Home postcode to be in IMD (Index of Multiple Deprivation) quintile 1 or 2 (this will be checked by the university) - Home postcode to be in ACORN group M, O, P or Q (this will be checked by the university) - Additional relevant additional information provided on application form
		Applicants will be required to supply information on their application demonstrating eligibility against the above criteria. Where possible applicants will be offered place on chosen strand, or alternative strands if indicated. All participants must hit at least one of the above criteria.	

* Postcodes can be checked by visiting <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/postcode-search/> - qualifying postcodes will be in quintile 1 or 2 under the POLAR 4 heading

Data Protection

All data collected is confidential and will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998). The data collected will be used to evaluate the impact of the programme in widening participation to Higher Education. Only organisations that require the information for the funding, delivery, evaluation and tracking of these outreach activities, including the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT), and the Higher Education Statistics Authority (HESA), will be given access to the data. This data will be anonymised for reporting purposes. This data will be stored on a secure database for future tracking.

If you have any queries regarding the eligibility to the Reading Scholars programme, please contact Tom Woolmer on t.j.woolmer@reading.ac.uk or 0118 3783846