WHAT TO ASK YOUR STAR MENTOR: A GUIDE FOR NEW UG STUDENTS

A STaR mentor can help prepare you for what to expect from student life and answer your questions about starting University and studying at Reading.

What your STaR mentor can help with

Your STaR mentor can help you with all aspects for student life. Things to consider when talking to your STaR mentor before you start, in your first few weeks and throughout the first term include:

Before You Start

- How to explore the me@reading applicant portal
- The benefits of completing Study Smart
- Tips on moving away from home to live in Reading or how to commute if living locally
- What you can expect from Welcome Week
- Things you need to bring with you on your first day to start University

Welcome Week

- Finding your way around the University campus and the location of buildings
- What Welcome talks and departmental events to attend
- How to meet new people, make new friends and socialise
- Choosing academic modules and accessing your timetable
- Meeting your personal tutor and other academic staff
- What to expect from lectures, seminars and tutorials

First Few Weeks and Throughout the First Term

- Accessing the me@reading student portal
- Studying your degree course
- The difference in studying at degree level from school or college and independent learning
- How to use the Library Service, take a book out, access online journals and reference correctly
- Using your time effectively and creating a work/ life balance
- Missing friends and family and homesickness
- Managing finances and budgeting
- Preparing for University assessments and exams
Suggested questions to ask your STaR mentor

About starting University and settling in...

Should I be doing anything over the summer to prepare for starting University?

What will happen in Welcome Week and what are the best events to go to?

Will I make friends and how can I meet people that are similar to me?

The campus is big with lots of buildings! How do I find my way around?

What do I need to bring to move in to halls?

What do I do if I don’t get on with my flat mates?

What happens when I first arrive on campus?

About studying your course at University....

Will I like my course and is the course right for me?

How do I choose the right modules?

What will happen in a lecture, seminar or tutorial?

What can I expect from taking a joint degree and will I get support?

What is the work load like and how different is it from school or college?

When do I start attending classes?

If I don’t like my course can I change it?

Do I need to buy all the text books on the reading list?

How do the degree classifications work?

About student life in Reading....

Does it take long to familiarise yourself with the University?

How do I join a club or society?

Am I going to be able to balance academic study and a social life?

Will it be easy to find part time work and how do I get a job?

Where is the nearest supermarket and how do I get there?

Who do I go to in the University if I have a problem?

What will second and third year be like?