

A student guide  
to staying safe  
on campus and  
in Reading

# Staying safe at Reading



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Helping staff and students get the most out of campus

# Going out

## Reducing the risk

On campus we have coffee shops and a number of licenced bars as well as a night club for up to 2,000 people.

Reading town centre is well known for its vibrant bars,

shops and restaurants and is within walking distance from the University or a short ride in a taxi. The local bus company also provide an excellent service through the campus and into the town centre.

Following the simple rules below will ensure that you have a great night out whether you stay on campus or go into town.



## When you are out

### Cash machines

- Try to make sure you have enough cash with you before you go for a night out.
- If you do need cash, try to use a machine in a very public place.
- Go with a friend if possible, and try to go in the daylight hours. If you need to go at night, make sure the area has plenty of lighting.
- Always be aware of who is close by and never count your cash in full public view, place it in your wallet or purse before leaving the machine.
- If you are in any doubt, do not use the machine, wait until you feel safe or find another machine.

### Taxis

- Keep the number of a reliable taxi firm on you. Call Security for a recommended company.
- When the taxi arrives, check it is the one you called and avoid getting into any taxis which are just touting for business.

### Responsible Drinking

- Anti spiking bottle caps and drink detective kits are available from University bars or RUSU.

## If you are going somewhere new, plan your journey in advance and to avoid having to ask anyone for directions (use Google maps)

- Pre-arrange to go home with a friend, try not to be out alone, particularly at night.
- Keep valuables, such as wallets, in an inside pocket and secured.
- Don't accept lifts from anyone you don't know or have just met.
- When walking home use the pavement facing oncoming traffic to avoid kerb crawlers.

## If you think you are being followed:

- Cross over the road, and then cross over again further up.
- If you are still concerned, go into the nearest public place and call the police on 999.
- If someone tries to grab your possessions, do not resist.
- Try to get a good look at them, and call the police as soon as possible, giving your location, the description and the direction the assailant went off in.

## If you are threatened:

- Set off your personal alarm
- Scream and shout
- Get away as quickly as possible
- Always call the police immediately once you are in a safe place, don't leave it until you get home.

**Personal attack alarms can be bought from security for only £1**



**If you are close to the University, you can also call Security as we are constantly patrolling the halls surrounding the campus, and we can attend very quickly to any incident.**

**Fortunately, street crime against students is rare. Most students stick together when out on the town and they look after each other when returning home – going out in a group reduces the risk of any personal attack.**



# Looking after your property

## Your property in halls

Like most new students who are attending university for the first time, it is easy to feel safe from the outside world when you have moved into the halls of residence. Unfortunately, this is not always the case.

It is advisable not to let anyone into the halls unless you know them personally. You may be asked to 'hold the door' by someone when you are going in, but please do not be tempted to help them out and politely ask them to use their own key or swipe card to gain entry. Do not feel

pressured to just 'let them in' and if they say their card is in their room, ask them to contact Security for assistance.


## Lock your door

Even though you are in halls of residence, it is still advisable to lock your room door even when leaving for just a

few minutes.

Just think for a moment, how much stuff is in your room? Your laptop, phone, ipad, TV, cash, bank cards and even your designer clothes are a temptation to the opportunist thief.

**If you own it, insure it!**



If anyone you don't know tries to gain entry or there is evidence of a break in, please contact Security straight away on **0118 378 7799**.

## Securing your bike

**The University has placed many cycle racks around the campus and halls of residence.**

- Always lock up your bike. If leaving your bike for a long period, check on it periodically to ensure the lock is still secure.
- Use a good quality 'D' shackle lock to secure your bike, even for a few moments.
- Lock both the bike frame and wheels to the rack, especially if the wheels are quick-release.
- Do not leave your bike overnight, remove it to your hall of residence or house etc. Most halls have secured areas for overnight parking of bikes.
- Make a note of the make, model and colour of your bike along with any serial number and any identifying marks.
- Keep the receipt for the bike or any proof of sale to prove it is yours in the event of theft.
- Particularly if your bike is expensive, consider getting it insured and have it marked with your postcode or student number.
- Use the free 'Immobilise' online service to register your bike and other property. In the event of a theft, Immobilise can trace you as the owner of any recovered belongings. Visit [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) to find out more and register your property.



D locks and Hi Visibility jackets are available from Security.





## Jogging and walking

- When out jogging, try to go in pairs and in the daylight hours.
- Make sure the route you pick is familiar to you, and stick to main roads with well-lit pavements or use the sports field.
- Be aware that the use of MP3 players restrict your senses to traffic and who is around you.

If you are the victim of a crime on campus, or witness a crime taking place then please take the following steps.

## 1 Report the incident to the police

If it is an emergency dial **999** (Please note: if you are calling from a University of Reading internal line, you will need to press '0' to get an outside line before dialling.)

If it is not an emergency, please telephone **0845 8 505 505** or **click here** to complete a non-emergency crime report online on the Thames Valley Police website.

Please ensure that you ask for the crime reference number and the Unique Reference Number (URN).

## 2 Report the incident to Security

Once you have reported the incident to the police, please let Security know as soon as possible.

If it is an emergency please phone on **0118 378 6300** (internal 6300)

If it is not an emergency, please phone **0118 378 7799** (internal 7799) or email **securitycontrol@reading.ac.uk**

## Staying safe at Reading

 For more information, please contact:

### Security Services

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Whiteknights  
Reading RG6 6BW  
United Kingdom

securitycontrol@reading.ac.uk  
Tel (0118) 378 7799

[www.reading.ac.uk/security](http://www.reading.ac.uk/security)