

# UNIVERSITY OF READING EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP (MASTER'S STUDY) - GUIDELINES AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS

## Guidelines

- 1.0 This information applies to new master's students taking up a place of study in 2025-2026 at the University of Reading (Whiteknights and London Road (UK) campuses) who are eligible for consideration for the *University of Reading Excellence Scholarship - Master's*.<sup>1</sup>
- 1.1 The *University of Reading Excellence Scholarship - Master's* (hereafter referred to as 'the Scholarship') is a competitive award funded by the University of Reading. The Scholarship provides a tuition fee reduction and may be held in conjunction with other funding, but note the ceiling on financial aid (clause 3.5).
- 1.2 The Scholarship has two streams, reflecting the different tuition fees paid by students. Details are as follows:
  - UK and Republic of Ireland students – £2,500 or £5,000
  - International students – £5,000 or £10,000

In the event a UK/Republic of Ireland student is classified as International for fees purposes, they will be considered for the international award. In the event a student from outside of the UK/Republic of Ireland qualifies for the UK/Republic of Ireland fee, they will be considered for the UK/Republic of Ireland award. The tuition fee payable is confirmed in the degree programme offer of admission.
- 1.3 There are other scholarships schemes, such as those supported through the generosity of external sponsors, for example the Commonwealth Shared Scholarships Scheme or Chevening Awards. This information relates only to the *University of Reading Excellence Scholarship – Master's*.
- 1.4 The Scholarship is awarded on a rolling basis. No application form is required – all eligible students made an offer of admission to a University of Reading master's degree programme are considered automatically. The closing date<sup>2</sup> for consideration is:

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<sup>1</sup> Henley Business School manages the allocation of *University of Reading Excellence Scholarship - Master's* for their degree programmes. Henley applicants should refer to their Guidelines and Terms and Conditions. This document provides information for prospective non-Henley master's students.

<sup>2</sup> This is the final date at which we will assess eligible master's programme offer holders for the Scholarship. A degree application needs to have been received and an offer of admission made by this date in order to be considered for the Scholarship. We cannot consider applicants who receive an offer of admission after this date.

- 1 July 2025 (September 2025 entrants)
  - 14 November (February 2026 entrants)
- 1.5 The Scholarship is awarded on a competitive basis and not all students will be successful. Assessment is based on performance in studies prior to enrolling at the University. We will only contact successful scholarship candidates.
- 1.6 Scholarships will be awarded in batches (funding is released in tranches). The point at which a recipient is notified of a scholarship will depend on the timing of their offer of admission relative to when a tranche of funding is released. Ordinarily a student will know within a maximum of 3 months of being offered admission whether they have been selected for the scholarship, although in many cases notification will be received sooner than this. However, if a student declines the scholarship for any reason, we will then move on to a reserve list and some students may be contacted more than 3 months after the date of the offer of admission. If a student has not been contacted by the University regarding the scholarship by the end of August (September entry) / December (February entry), they should assume they have been unsuccessful.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for consideration for the Scholarships candidates must:

- 2.0 Not already be in receipt of a full tuition fee scholarship or sponsorship.
- 2.1 Not already be enrolled on a postgraduate programme in the UK.
- 2.2 Have applied for entry to a University of Reading master's programme for admission in the academic year 2025-2026, using the University's online postgraduate application form.
- 2.3 Have applied to study on a full-time or part-time basis. Flexible / part-time modular master's courses are excluded.
- 2.4 Have received a formal offer of admission (it is **not** necessary to have accepted the offer of admission at the Scholarship consideration stage).

### **Terms and Conditions**

- 3.0 Candidates for the Scholarship must satisfy the Eligibility Criteria and the Terms and Conditions.
- 3.1 If the Scholarship is awarded, it is a requirement of the process that the student accepts the Terms and Conditions under which the scheme operates.
- 3.2 Scholarship candidates will be assessed based on their academic accomplishments to date as recorded in the master's degree application. Supplementary documents cannot be submitted, although the University reserves the right to request additional information from a student being considered for the Scholarship where it believes it will help facilitate a final decision.

- 3.3 The Scholarship is not means assessed and the evaluation process does not seek to make any judgement on a student's financial situation beyond the requirements noted in clause 3.5.
- 3.4 All information provided in the degree course application must be true and accurate - it also forms the basis for deciding which students are selected for the Scholarship.
- 3.5 Candidates in receipt of other tuition fee scholarships<sup>3</sup> can combine these monies with the Scholarship if the combined value does not amount to more than the total annual cost of tuition. A *University of Reading Excellence Scholarship – Master's* will not be awarded to anyone who already has a full scholarship or sponsorship to pay for their tuition fees. Scholarship recipients are required to advise us if their financial situation changes and they are subsequently granted full funding from another source. The University reserves the right to withdraw all or part of the Scholarship and make no (or no further) payments if the student obtains sufficient alternative funding from another source. A student will not be disadvantaged if they already hold a partial scholarship, provided it would not exceed the tuition fee, as stated above.
- 3.6 To be considered for the Scholarship a student must have been issued with an offer of admission by the deadline date specified in clause 1.4 and under no circumstances can that deadline be extended.
- 3.7 Candidates selected for the Scholarship will be notified by email and it is therefore essential that the University has up-to-date contact information. Upon being notified of an award, a candidate will have 10 working days<sup>4</sup> within which to register their acceptance of the Scholarship by return email. If the candidate has not accepted their offer of admission for the master's course, they will also be required to do this as condition of the Scholarship offer. If either the Scholarship or the offer of admission are not accepted within 10 working days of scholarship notification, it will be assumed the candidate does not wish to receive funding and the scholarship offer will be withdrawn.
- 3.8 If the Scholarship is offered to a student holding a conditional offer of admission to the University, then the award of the Scholarship will also be conditional on the student meeting these requirements for entry.
- 3.9 The University will only contact successful scholarship candidates and the University will endeavor to do so no later than 22 August 2025 for September 2025 entrants and 19 December 2025 for February 2026 entrants.
- 3.10 The Scholarship is applied only in the form of a tuition fee reduction. There is no cash or other alternative to this. Where students pay their tuition fees in instalments, the scholarship will be applied *pro rata* in proportion to the fee paid (e.g. in the event the annual tuition fee is paid in two equal instalments, each payment will be reduced by an amount equivalent to 50% of the scholarship).
- 3.11 Scholarships cannot be deferred to future years and are valid for entry in the 2025-2026 academic year only.

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<sup>3</sup> This may include the [Alumni Discount](#) offered to University of Reading graduates returning for further degree study.

<sup>4</sup> Working days are Monday to Friday inclusive.

- 3.12 The Scholarship is awarded for one year. In the event of a student studying on a part-time basis being awarded the Scholarship, the tuition fee reduction will be applied in full against the first year of tuition fees and not split over two years. Students studying flexible / part-time modular master's courses are ineligible for the Scholarship.
- 3.13 The University's decision is final, and we are unable to receive requests for reconsideration. The University reserves the right to withdraw the Scholarship if students are subsequently found to be ineligible or if these Terms and Conditions are not adhered to.
- 3.14 Any queries about the University of Reading Excellence Scholarship - Master's scheme should be addressed to [scholarships@reading.ac.uk](mailto:scholarships@reading.ac.uk)

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