

Programme Specification

International Foundation Programme

For students entering Foundation year in September 2027

UCAS Code: N1Q3

FFIFP

FFIFPJAN

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	1 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	International Foundation Programme (January intake) - 1 years (UCAS Code: Q3N1)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	QAA International Pathways Characteristics Statement 2022, OFQUAL Level 3 Descriptor, OFQUAL GCE Level 3 Guidance, QAA Quality Code for Higher Education 2018

Programme information and content

The purpose of the International Foundation Year Programme (IFP) is to provide international students who have not met the direct entry requirement to undergraduate study with an alternative opportunity to access higher education. The IFP is an NQF Level 3 programme that offers students a supportive environment to prepare for study on their intended undergraduate degree.

The programme has been created to meet the needs of students from a wide range of educational backgrounds and prior learning experiences. It uses a variety of teaching and learning methods that are consistent with the demands of undergraduate study while having the agility to support the needs of a diverse cohort.

The intention of the IFP is to provide students with the opportunity to develop the core skills and knowledge required for successful study in their chosen undergraduate degree. The aims of the programme are to,

- develop the academic, personal and professional skills required for undergraduate study
- strengthen students' language and academic literacy to enable them to study in their chosen undergraduate discipline.
- build knowledge in core subject areas relevant to their discipline.

The IFP uses a student-centred approach to learning and development. It provides access to subject specialism content that integrates practical and theoretical aspects of the disciplines, while creating skills transferable to a real-world context. Academic tutoring support is

embedded throughout the programme and other services including welfare and wellbeing support are available at the University.

As the programme accepts international students from a wide range of cultural, socio-economic, and political environments, awareness around the principles of multiculturalism, equality, diversity, and inclusion in a national, international, and institutional context are actively encouraged. Thus, helping to provide students with opportunities to develop an appreciation for the value of difference.

Foundation year:	The IFP programme consists of 120 credits which includes compulsory modules dependent on the student's intended degree. All students are required to take two 20-credit modules Introduction to Academic Skills and Communication (IF0ASC) and Further Academic Skills and Communication (IF0FSC) or Introduction to Academic Skills and Communication (IF0ASCJ) and Further Academic Skills and Communication (IF0FSCJ) for January start. For students who require a higher level of English for their intended undergraduate degree, or do not meet the English language standard specified for undergraduate study, these modules will meet those needs. The remaining credits will be made up of compulsory modules according to the intended degree programme.
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Programme Learning Outcomes - International Foundation Programme

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Demonstrate an understanding of key concepts, methods, and perspectives relevant to the intended discipline, and apply this understanding and knowledge to familiar academic contexts.
2	Locate, select, evaluate, and organise information from a variety of sources, using academic conventions to present ideas with clarity and integrity.
3	Communicate ideas effectively in written and spoken English, using general academic and discipline-specific terminology and conventions.
4	Develop digital capabilities to support learning, demonstrating responsible and ethical practice.
5	Apply appropriate discipline relevant techniques in completing tasks. These may be textual, graphical, numerical, computational or other, depending on the intended discipline.
6	Reflect on personal learning, identifying strengths and areas for development, and using feedback to adapt study strategies to become a more autonomous learner.
7	Demonstrate an awareness of intercultural perspectives, sustainable practices and academic expectations to build a successful transition into the new academic and cultural environments.

8	To develop transferable skills including teamwork, independent work, organisational skills and problem-solving to apply across familiar contexts.
You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree. To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.	

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes	
N/A	

Module information			
The foundation year comprises 120 credits of compulsory modules.			
Foundation Modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
IF0ASC	Introduction to Academic Skills and Communication	20	0
IF0FSC	Further Academic Skills and Communication	20	0
All students on the programme must take the two 20-credit Introduction to Academic Skills and Communication and Further Academic Skills and Communication modules, plus compulsory modules required for their intended degree. Students starting in January will take Introduction to Academic Skills and Communication (IF0ASCJ) and Further Academic Skills and Communication (IF0FSCJ). The remaining 80 credits will be made up of compulsory modules dependent on the intended degree programme. The compulsory modules on the IFP are provided by the University of Reading Global Academy and taught by subject specialist lecturers. Modules cover a wide range of subject areas. They are, for example, social sciences such as Business, Management, Law and Economics, Maths for both business and science, and sciences such as Psychology, Biology and Chemistry.			

Placement opportunities
Placements:
Not applicable

Study Abroad:

Not applicable

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

The teaching and learning on the IFP uses approaches and types of sessions which prepare students for university study in the subject and discipline. Types of sessions can include lectures, seminars, workshops, practical laboratory sessions or individual tutorials. Students will experience a range of approaches including active learning, group-based projects, independent tasks, presentations, use of digital technology, problem-solving, and case study-based activities.

In addition to the in-person teaching sessions, all students will be expected to complete self-directed study using the university Virtual Learning Environment – Blackboard Ultra, to consolidate their learning. While an indication of the amount of self-directed study required is shown in each module description, the actual amount of time needed to be successful will vary according to the individual and module.

The International Foundation Programme includes at least 18 hours of classroom-based teaching each week. These in-person sessions will be timetabled according to the specific combination of modules. In addition, students will need to schedule their own self-directed learning to fit in around their timetable.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The aim of the summative assessments will be to measure learning against the module learning outcomes. Formative assessments and tutor feedback will provide opportunities for students to develop their learning.

The IFP uses a variety of assessment methods relevant to subject and discipline. These include written assignments, laboratory-based practicals, group or individual

presentations, personal reflections and written examinations. Information regarding assessment methods can be found in the relevant module descriptions.

Qualification criteria for admission to intended degree

To achieve a threshold performance on completion of the International Foundation Programme, a student is required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 50% over 120 credits taken in Part 0;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in all individual modules.

(Students who obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 0 are considered to have successfully completed the programme of study, but are not eligible to transfer to a University of Reading programme.)

In order to qualify for and be admitted onto an intended undergraduate degree programme at the University of Reading, a student must achieve a threshold performance and additional requirements dependent on the intended degree programme.

For the purposes of presenting these additional requirements ‘subject modules’ are defined as any module excluding IF0ASC Introduction to Academic Skills and Communication and IF0FSC Further Academic Skills and Communication or for January start, IF0ASCJ Introduction to Academic Skills and Communication and IF0FSCJ Further Academic Skills and Communication.

‘Specified subject modules’ are compulsory subject modules requiring a specific score for acceptance onto a particular intended degree programme.

Additional requirements for degrees are now given by school:

Degree programmes in: the Henley Business School (except BSc Accounting and Business, BSc Accounting and Finance (and variants), BSc Finance and Business Management (UoRM) and BSc Finance (and variants)); School of Humanities; the Institute of Education (except BA Primary Education with a subject variant); the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science; the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development (except BSc Bioveterinary Sciences (and variants)); the School of the Built Environment (except BEng Architectural Engineering & MEng Architectural Engineering); the School of Philosophy, Politics and Economics (except BSc Economics and Finance); BSc Biological Sciences (and variants) in the School of Biological Sciences ONLY; BSc Computer Science (and variants) in the School of Mathematical, Physical and Computational Sciences ONLY; BSc Criminology in the School of Law ONLY; BSc Psychology (and variants) in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences ONLY.

- (i) a threshold performance as detailed above;
- (ii) any English language requirements for progression to University of Reading programmes as detailed in the next section.

Degree programmes in: the School of Law (except BSc Criminology); the School of Biological Sciences (except BSc Biological Sciences (and variants)); the School of Mathematical, Physical and Computational Sciences (except BSc Computer Science (and variants)); the School of Chemistry Food and Pharmacy (Except MPharm Pharmacy and MPAS Physicians Associate Studies); BSc Finance (and variants) in the Henley Business School ONLY; BA Primary Education with English and BA Primary Education with Maths in the Institute of Education ONLY; BSc Bioveterinary Sciences (and variants) in the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development ONLY; BEng Architectural Engineering & MEng Architectural Engineering in the School of the Built Environment ONLY; BSc Economics and Finance in the School of Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

- (i) a module mark of at least 50% in 40 credits of specified subject modules;
- (ii) any English language requirements for progression to University of Reading programmes as detailed in the next section.

Degree programmes in: BSc Accounting and Finance (and variants (except BSc Accounting and Finance with Placement Experience (UoRM)) in the Henley Business School ONLY.

- (i) a module mark of at least 55% in 40 credits of specified subject modules;
- (ii) any English language requirements for progression to University of Reading programmes as detailed in the next section.

Degree programmes in: BSc Accounting and Business in the Henley Business School ONLY; the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences (except BSc Psychology (and variants)).

- (i) an overall weighted average of at least 55% over all modules taken in Part 0;
- (ii) a module mark of at least 60% in 80 credits of subject modules;
- (iii) any English language requirements for progression to University of Reading programmes as detailed in the next section.

Degree programmes in: MPharm Pharmacy and MPAS Physicians Associate Studies in the School of Chemistry Food and Pharmacy ONLY.

- (i) an overall weighted average of at least 55% over all modules taken in Part 0;
- (ii) a module mark of at least 60% in 80 credits of specified subject modules;
- (iii) any English language requirements for progression to University of Reading programmes as detailed in the next section.

On programmes where there is external accreditation the requirement of the accrediting body must also be met. Information on the additional requirements will be provided by the IFP Programme Director.

All students will take IF0ASC Introduction to Academic Skills and Communication and IF0FSC Further Academic Skills and Communication or for January start, IF0ASCJ Introduction to Academic Skills and Communication and IF0FSCJ Further Academic Skills and Communication.

English Language requirements for progression to University of Reading programmes

<i>MSci Speech and Language Therapy degree programme ONLY from the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences</i>	IELTS 8.0 (with no skill below 7.5) or a module mark of at least 70% in the IF0ASC Introduction to Academic Skills and Communication and IF0FSC Further Academic Skills and Communication or for January start, IF0ASCJ Introduction to Academic Skills and Communication and IF0FSCJ Further Academic Skills and Communication.
<i>MPharm Pharmacy, MPAS Physician Associate Studies, BSc Nutrition and BSc Nutrition and Food Science degree programmes ONLY from the School of Chemistry Food and Pharmacy</i>	IELTS 6.5 (no skill below 6.0) or a module mark of at least 55% in the IF0ASC Introduction to Academic Skills and Communication and IF0FSC Further Academic Skills and Communication or for January start, IF0ASCJ Introduction to Academic Skills and Communication and IF0FSCJ Further Academic Skills and Communication.
<i>Degree programmes in the Henley Business School</i>	
<i>Degree programmes in the School of Philosophy, Politics and Economics</i>	IELTS 6.5 (no skill below 5.5) or a module mark of at least 50% in the IF0ASC Introduction to Academic Skills and Communication and IF0FSC Further Academic Skills and Communication or for January start, IF0ASCJ Introduction to Academic Skills and Communication and IF0FSCJ Further Academic Skills and Communication.
<i>Degree programmes in the School of Law</i>	
<i>Degree programmes in the Institute of Education</i>	
<i>Degree Programmes in the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science</i>	
<i>Degree Programmes in the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development</i>	

<i>Degree Programmes in the School of the Built Environment</i> <i>Degree Programmes in the School of Biological Sciences</i> <i>Degree Programmes in the School of Chemistry Food and Pharmacy (except MPharm Pharmacy, MPAS Physician Associate Studies, BSc Nutrition and BSc Nutrition and Food Science)</i> <i>Degree Programmes in the School of Mathematical, Physical and Computational Sciences</i> <i>Degree Programmes in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences (except MSci Speech and Language Therapy)</i> <i>Degree programmes in the School of Humanities</i>	
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Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

During the IFP you will incur additional costs which may include e.g., trips and learning materials.

IFP students are encouraged to discuss the purchase of textbooks or other resources with the Module Convenor. Some textbooks may be available second hand and a range of resources to support your curriculum will be available through the virtual learning environment and the library.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

International Foundation Programme for students entering Foundation year in session 2027/28

17 July 2026

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