



Agrinatura General Assembly and Conference
Hosted by the University of Reading, UK
26–28 May 2026

Practical Information

We are delighted to have our 2026 Agrinatura General Assembly at the University of Reading. Reading is the ideal setting to bring together our members to share knowledge, explore collaborations, and advance solutions for a sustainable future.

The University of Reading

The University of Reading has been a leader in UK higher education for a century as of March 2026. Renowned for pushing academic boundaries and driving positive social change both locally and globally. With over 27,000 students from more than 160 countries, the university combines a rich heritage with a commitment to innovation, research, and sustainability.

Research at Reading focuses on addressing some of today's most pressing challenges across four themes: **agriculture, food and health; environment; heritage and creativity; and prosperity and resilience**. Through interdisciplinary and international collaborations, the university works to tackle climate change, improve human health, ensure food security, and deepen our understanding of human culture.

Steeped in history and guided by principles of **love of learning, creation of new knowledge, embracing diversity, and environmental stewardship**. Reading provides award-winning, green campuses with world-class facilities. Its Whiteknights campus, recipient of 15 consecutive Green Flag Awards, is recognized as one of Britain's top green spaces. In the **Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025**, the university ranked among the **top 50 universities worldwide** for its support of sustainable global development.

Address: Main Whiteknights Campus: Whiteknights House, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 6UR
<https://www.reading.ac.uk/>

The town of Reading

Reading town is a geographic and historic county of Berkshire, southern England, 38 miles (61 km) west of London. Reading dates back to medieval times, shaped by the River Thames and Kennet that encircle the town centre. Modern-day Reading embraces its heritage and waterside location as part of a vibrant, cosmopolitan destination.

Reading Abbey Ruins are 900 years old, remains of the medieval monasteries dismantled during the 1530s dissolution from the time of King Henry VIII, and there is lots more heritage to enjoy in the town's wonderful Georgian and Victorian buildings. Being a University town, Reading has a selection of fine museums and a social life to match and our waterside location provides opportunities for watersports, boat trips and riverside dining.

Reading has a lovely scale to it. Everything is walkable – the town centre, access to the river, the Abbey Quarter district and the modern railway station. Big enough to offer a diverse experience without the drawbacks of the big city.

Reading is an agricultural centre noted for the bulbs produced in its nursery gardens. Its other best-known industries are biscuit manufacture and malting and brewing, and there is much business in printing, iron foundries, engineering works, and computers. There are pottery and brick works, together with riverside boatbuilding yards.

From Reading town to Reading University, you can travel:

- **By bus** (No. 21, 20): From Blagrove Street (right outside the South side of the train station) to the University of Reading which run every 10 mn and takes 15 minutes. Cost: 3 euros
Planner: <https://www.reading-buses.co.uk/>
- **By taxi**: From Reading station to the University (3.4 km) - Around 15 euros, 7 minutes
Stationtaxi.square.site – Phone: +44 7475661060
40 minute walk

Conference location on campus – School of Agriculture, Policy & Development.

Agriculture Building
Whiteknights Road
Earley
Reading
RG6 6BU
England

How to get there

By train

Reading is a major rail hub with excellent connections:

- Direct trains from London Paddington take around 25–30 minutes.
- Regular services are available from Oxford, Birmingham, Bristol, and the South Coast.
- Reading station is in the town centre, within easy walking distance of shops, hotels, and the University of Reading's Whiteknights campus (a short bus or taxi ride away).

By plane

The nearest airports are:

- Heathrow Airport (~25 miles east): Direct trains from Heathrow to Reading take around 25–35 minutes. Taxis and buses are also available.
- Gatwick Airport (~70 miles southeast): Train connections via Reading take around 1 hour 45 minutes, with one change.
- London City Airport and Bristol Airport are further away but reachable by train or coach.

By bus / coach

- National Express and other coach services operate routes to Reading from London, Oxford, Bristol, and other major UK cities.
- [RailAir](#) buses operate routes to Reading from Heathrow airport
- Local buses connect Reading town center with surrounding areas and the University of Reading Whiteknights campus.

Accommodation

Hotels (list shared by the University of Reading):

[Hotels-near-the-University-of-Reading 23 Jan 2026.pdf](#)

You can also check the following:

[The Market House](#)
[The Great House, Sonning, Berkshire](#)

ibis Reading Centre
Best Western Reading
Garner Hotel Reading City Centre, an IHG Hotel

Restaurants

1. Zi torie (Italian cuisine) - on one of the oldest and historic streets in Reading town
2. Coconut bar & restaurant (Asian fusion)
3. London Street Brasserie – By the riverside
4. Many other famous chains in the Oracle are and riverside

Pubs

1. Three Tuns (10 mins walk from the University (Lower Earley Gate entrance)
2. The Rising Sun – in the town Centre
3. The Hope & Bear

Visa support

If you require a visa to travel to the UK, we will be happy to provide you with an invitation letter. To request this, please provide:

- A confirmed hotel booking
- Your flight details
- A copy of your passport
- The contact details of your organisation

Please email the above information to: a.m.ainslie@reading.ac.uk

Get an electronic travel authorisation (ETA) to visit the UK

Electronic travel authorization (ETA) is needed to travel to the UK.

Most visitors travelling to the UK need an ETA or a visa. What you need depends on your nationality and why you're coming to the UK.

When do you need an ETA: <https://www.gov.uk/eta/when-not-need-eta>

It will cost £20 to apply for an ETA from 8 April 2026.

Apply online: <https://www.gov.uk/eta/apply>

Contacts

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