

A Quick Guide to Using Postal Services

All Postal Services operations are Covid-Secure. Our areas are kept clean, social distance is maintained and face coverings are required. Please follow all instructions when visiting these areas.



General enquiries
Telephone – 0118 378 (6530)
Email postroom@reading.ac.uk

Outgoing Mail (6530)
Internal Mail (7302)
Postal Services Manager
0118 378 (6512)

Private Mail

We provide a wide range of mail services to all staff and students. We offer discounts on all overseas mail, parcel and courier services and all UK parcel and courier services. We are closer to most Departments than a Post Office.

Service available 9am to 4pm.

Incoming External Mail

This is pre-sorted by Royal Mail and delivered to the recognised delivery point for each unique Post Code. For example, Whiteknights House receives mail for RG6 6AH (PO Box 217)/RG6 6UR – Whiteknights House itself. During the Covid emergency, mail for all other locked buildings was also delivered there.

It is crucial that you inform senders of the correct postal code for your buildings. You can find the post code for your building on the postal services website, along with the correct address format.

Postal Services deliver all received mail to all locations on the morning it is delivered to us, as soon as possible after it arrives. A nominal schedule is available on our website.

Please contact us at any time if you are expecting an item that has not arrived, or ask the Portering service if they sort mail in your building/campus.

The old PO Box addressing system has been dropped for most Whiteknights locations. Please don't use them any more wherever you publish your address.

Outgoing Mail

Postal Services process all outgoing letter, parcel and courier post on behalf of the University (not Greenlands). We offer the full range of Post and Parcel services you might find at a Post Office and are able to obtain large discounts for Departments, particularly on International Airmail. We also provide Same Day, Next Day and other courier and parcel services, again at large discounts.

All mail is treated with the utmost urgency and will leave the University on the day of posting. Outgoing mail services are located in Room B10 in the basement of Whiteknights House.

Please put all 1st Class/24 PPI, stamped private mail (both classes), Freepost, re-directed and return to-sender mail in the black pouch, and 2nd Class /48 PPI green or black mail pouch.

Pouches are delivered and collected every day and they must be at the collection point before our drivers arrive.

In Whiteknights House, use the supplied account barcode labels instead of pouches.

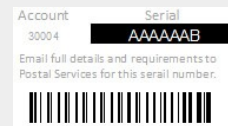
If you don't have pouches, bundle the items together with rubber bands (or use a sack) and include a Posting Docket. (available online).



Mailing docket
Please fill in and attach to outgoing mail

You no longer need to use payment indicator labels on the front of UK items. Just mark 1st class items with a '1' in the front, top-right corner or use a small printed label. Everything else will be sent 2nd class.

All University overseas mail is automatically sent Airmail and is franked by our suppliers as such. If you need UK Signed-For, Special Delivery, International Signed-For, Airsure or any other non-standard service, you must indicate this using one of our 'Service Request' labels (order from website).



Small notes in the corner of an envelope are likely to be missed and Post-Its fall off! We pro-actively track these items and photograph them before dispatch. Write your special service requirements over the feint instruction area. Mail not prepared correctly will be returned.

Please telephone 6530 to check preparation requirements for very large mailings, including more than 8 trackable items in one mailing.

Address outgoing mail correctly – It is important to include a Post Code on a separate line at the bottom of a UK address.

Please provide the full Post Office address without punctuation and indented lines. If you run out of fields in your database then discard the County name. This is redundant for Royal Mail purposes.

When sending pre-stamped

personal mail with Departmental mail, please keep it separate in a black or green mail pouch.

Parcels – please always mark large items with your Department name and use one of our 'Service Request' labels to indicate the service required; such as: Parcel Force 9.00 a.m., Next Day 12, Next Day close of business, or 48 Hours, International Courier. See all options online.

Overseas parcels containing anything other than documents will probably require Pro-Forma (or Commercial) invoices. Again, you have a choice of delivery speeds available. We can also arrange a same day service to anywhere in this country (not cheap).

This also applies to all EU countries, whose customs have become extremely thorough when processing UK originating items.

Billing – all types of postage/ parcels are collated on computer and Departments are re-billed or invoiced monthly for all services. If you require something to be separately identifiable for your purposes, attach a 'Service Request' label to the items with the word REFERENCE: followed by whatever you like, which will appear on statements. External companies are invoiced monthly or quarterly if typical monthly bills would be less than £10.

VAT – there are important considerations when selling or when sending something outside the UK for repair. Please refer to the Postal Services website for details.

Intra-UoR Mail

The Postal Services hub is located in the basement of Whiteknights House. All internal mail is brought to room B01 up to four times a day and immediately sorted and re-distributed. We also distribute printing from Design & Print services and other large items on a daily basis.

Please make a WREN Portering request (7000) for the internal distribution of large numbers of heavy boxes or other items, where more than one person would be needed to carry any single item or where loading and unloading is likely to affect the internal/external mail collection schedules or where, having risk assessed the job, it would be a H&S issue to ask one person to do it.

When posting something by internal mail please always include a building name in the address and avoid 'unofficial' abbreviations of any kind. Post Room staff do not sort mail by name so if there is no address your item may be delayed.

Bulk internal mailings – in order to guarantee the quickest possible distribution, please send these to the Post Room grouped in departments. All envelopes for a particular department should be kept together using a rubber band. Most such mailings are normally addressed using label print-outs that are already in departmental order. To provide a fair service to all, 'normal' internal mail is given priority over unsorted mass-mailings.

Web , more detailed information -

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/post>