



# Postgraduate Offer Guide

FOR UK / EEA / EU APPLICANTS

Royal  
Agricultural  
University  
Cirencester



# Your Offer Guide

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# Your next steps

## STEP 1

You have now received your offer letter and here is your guide. Please make sure you read your offer carefully to make sure you understand it fully.

Turn to page 6 for details about Your Offer and some handy FAQs.

## STEP 2

Go through the application checklist to check the important dates and complete all the key tasks, from being offered a place at the RAU to receiving your results.

Turn to page 7 to see our comprehensive timeline.

## STEP 3

Our Money Matters page provides information on student finance and the support on offer here at the RAU.

Turn to page 13 to see what you might be entitled to.

## STEP 4

Choose and apply for your accommodation. We're now accepting applications for 2018 entry. If you hold a firm offer, you can apply online for your accommodation via My RAU. Please visit <https://my.rau.ac.uk>.

Turn to page 14 for more information about choosing your accommodation.



# Welcome

Many congratulations on receiving your offer to join us here at the Royal Agricultural University in September. I am looking forward to welcoming you into the very special community that is the RAU.

What we all love most about our University is the small, friendly, community feel and of course, our beautiful campus set in the stunning Cotswold countryside. Named the safest university in England and Wales in the 2018 Complete University Guide, the RAU is based in Cirencester, a busy town with a great sense of history.

You can be sure that you'll get a very warm welcome and all the support you need from staff, the Student Union and your fellow students to ensure that you make the most of your experience over the next few years.

You'll be encouraged to involve yourself in initiatives such as our award-winning enterprise programme, which ensures you'll gain key employability skills and become a career-ready graduate.

If you have any questions, or just want to find out more about the University, please don't hesitate to contact us by calling the Admissions Office on 01285 889912 or by emailing [admissions@rau.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rau.ac.uk).

Professor Joanna Price  
Vice-Chancellor  
The Royal Agricultural University

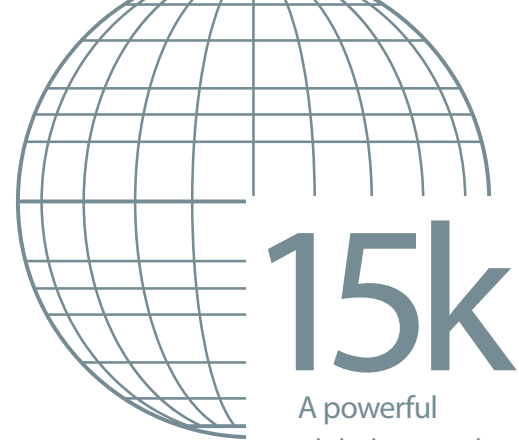


What we all love most about our University is the small, friendly community feel and of course, our beautiful campus set in the stunning Cotswold countryside.





# Our reputation speaks for itself



# 15k

A powerful global network of 15,000 alumni



Award-winning enterprise programme providing tailored support at all levels of business start-up

High graduate employability

# 90%

on average over the past five years

48 student businesses launched  
82% success rate, compared with 44% nationally\*

\*Office for National Statistics



# 89%

## Learning Community



89% of students feel part of the RAU community

# 87%

## Student Satisfaction



High student satisfaction

# 1845

Delivering outstanding education and meeting real-world needs since 1845



## Industry links

Our graduates have careers with prestigious global companies

## Experts



Staff who are experts in their fields and visiting speakers who are captains of industry

# 1st safest

Safest university in England and Wales



# Your offer

You will have received an offer letter outlining the conditions of your offer.

- If you accept a conditional offer it will remain at this stage until all of the respective conditions have been met.
- Applicants with an unconditional offer will have met all conditions required for the course.
- Applicants wishing to defer their offer must have satisfied all conditions by 31 August 2018 in order for a place to be reserved in September / October 2018 or by 14 December for entry in February 2019.

Please note that deferral requests must be submitted in writing to admissions and they will be considered on merit.

### My RAU

Once you receive an offer from the RAU you will be able to log into the University's applicant portal My RAU. Your username will be your eight digit student number which is printed at the top of your offer letter and your password will be your date of birth in the format ddmmyyyy. You'll be invited to change your password on your first visit.

### English Language Requirements

If there is an English proficiency condition in your offer, it will be stated in your offer conditions on the offer letter you have received from RAU.

### Booking an IELTS test

If you're planning to take an IELTS Academic test we recommend you arrange to take it early – test dates in the summer are often full so plan and book your test as soon as possible.

[www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)

Admissions Office 01 285 889912  
[admissions@rau.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rau.ac.uk)

### Providing verification of your qualifications

Photocopies will need to be verified by your University. Photocopies of your certificates and transcripts must meet the following conditions:

1. The document must be signed and stamped by your institution.
2. The signatory must also print their name and job title.
3. If the qualifications / results are in a language other than English then a certified official translation of the original document must also be submitted at the same time.
4. References must be provided on the official headed paper of your institution or employer and signed. Alternatively, we can accept a reference sent directly from your referee's academic or official email address.

You should submit any certified official documents as soon as they become available.

Documents can be emailed to [admissions@rau.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rau.ac.uk) or uploaded on My RAU (only pdf files in colour and good definition will be accepted). The originals must be submitted on the day of your registration.

If the University finds that the examinations / qualifications / results you have declared on your application are inaccurate or you are unable to verify them, the University reserves the right to withdraw the offer or cancel your application.





# FAQs

**Q** I have changed my mind about the course I want to study. Can I change to another course?

This may be possible depending on whether places are still available, how competitive the new course is, and whether your subjects and grades are suitable. If the course you wish to study is in the same area or department as your original one, there is a good chance you will be able to change. Please contact the admissions office so we can advise and assist you.

**Q** What happens if I have applied for deferred entry?

If your offer is for deferred entry you must still satisfy all the conditions of your offer by 31 August / mid-December. If you're successful in meeting those conditions or if your offer is already unconditional, a place will then be reserved for you to start the following academic year.

**Q** I no longer want to start my postgraduate course, who do I tell?

It's important to contact the admissions team as soon as possible if you intend to withdraw your application.

**Q** What happens if I have problems during the exams? Will my circumstances be considered?

Sometimes there may be circumstances that arise which may have a serious impact on how you perform during your exams. If you have serious extenuating circumstances which had an impact on your performance please let us know so we can advise you further.

**Q** When do I need to send you proof of my qualifications?

If you're taking qualifications that are required for you to complete your conditions, it is your responsibility to ensure that your results reach us. You should send them to [admissions@rau.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rau.ac.uk) as soon as you receive them. Photocopies will need to be verified by your University.

- The document must be signed and stamped by your institution
- The signatory must also print their name and job title
- If the qualifications/results are in a language other than English then a certified official translation of the original document must be submitted at the same time.



**Q** I changed my email address / contact address / telephone number. Do I need to let you know?

Yes, please contact Admissions as soon as possible. It is extremely important we hold the correct contact details for you.

**Q** Who do I need to contact if I would like to talk to someone about special support arrangements?

The University Disability Officer Dr John Conway provides a range of services for students who have disabilities or medical conditions. If you would like to discuss anything, please email [john.conway@rau.ac.uk](mailto:john.conway@rau.ac.uk) or call 01285 652531 Ext. 2234.

**Q** I have some questions about the scholarships you offer, who can I contact for further information?

You can contact our Admissions team on 01285 889912 or email the Scholarships Administrator at [scholarships@rau.ac.uk](mailto:scholarships@rau.ac.uk).



## Your timeline

Congratulations on receiving your offer.

Starting university is one of the most exciting times of your life. By now you'll already be thinking about what lies ahead and what you should do to prepare for your course and all that follows.

We're here to guide you along the way. This handy timeline breaks down all the important phases between now and when you start your course, and shows you the things to do next.

### For February starters

You'll be emailed separately with dates and more information about Registration.



October Start	February Start	
From November 2017	Email for availability	Applications for on campus accommodation open via My RAU. You'll receive an email once the portal is open (page 14).
January – September	January – September	Postgraduate Open Days. A perfect opportunity to visit the University and get a real feel for what life as a student is really like. For dates please check the RAU website <a href="http://www.rau.ac.uk/opendays">www.rau.ac.uk/opendays</a>
From February 2018	As soon as possible	Arrange student finance loans and check for any other additional support, scholarships, awards and bursaries you might want to apply for. Try to apply for your student loans as soon as possible to make sure they are in place in time for starting your studies (page 13).
From May 2018	From September	For applicants holding a conditional offer, send your final results (final transcript and certificate) by email to <a href="mailto:admissions@rau.ac.uk">admissions@rau.ac.uk</a>
Late August 2018	Mid-December	A confirmation email will be sent to all applicants who are holding an unconditional firm offer. This email will include a statement of confirmation and a Welcome Guide.
September 2018	December 2018	Get vaccinated. All students – British, European or overseas – admitted to UK universities are advised to be vaccinated against Meningitis C and to ensure all their vaccinations are up-to-date.
September 2018	December 2018	Get your money organised. Make sure your postgraduate loan is approved and set up an online payment for your tuition and / or accommodation fees. For any queries contact <a href="mailto:studentfees@rau.ac.uk">studentfees@rau.ac.uk</a> .
September 2018	Late January	Online self registration will open. You'll need to complete this before you arrive. You will be able to request a permit to park on-site at this point. You'll receive an email once the portal is open.
23 September 2018	February 2019	Arrivals for on-site accommodation
24-28 September 2018	February 2019	We look forward to welcoming you for on-site Student Registration and Induction Week.





# A student experience like no other

Join our friendly and supportive student community.

Whether you're a sports fan, budding entrepreneur, talented singer, or enjoy a good board game, you'll find something and someone to help you make the most of student life here at the RAU.

Take your pick from the Board Games Society, Brewers' Club, Choir, Christian Union, Engineering, Enterprise Society, Environmental Society, Food and Wine Club, Officer Training Corp, Racing Club, Real Estate Society, the annual Ski Trip and much more.

If you're into sports, there are plenty of opportunities for you to get involved, whatever level you're at. We have teams for cricket, croquet, darts, football, hockey, lacrosse, netball, rugby, tennis and water sports, to name a few. While our clubs include equestrian, fishing, polo, snow sports, rowing, sporting rifle, team chasing and walking.

Find out more about social opportunities at the RAU on our website. [www.rau.ac.uk/social](http://www.rau.ac.uk/social)



**“My time here has been absolutely brilliant. Everyone is very friendly and welcoming. Whilst the course is intense it is well managed and delivered and the teaching staff make time for you. The presentations in my first term were excellent and made the job application process much less daunting. Being able to listen and speak to potential employers and see what they have to offer before applying, is a real benefit.”**  
Robert Jones, MSc Rural Estate Management



**“I chose the University for its excellent facilities, warm and sociable atmosphere and its reputation for being the best university of its type in the country. The variety of teaching styles by lecturers and guest speakers from different industries help to provide varying perspectives. You can tailor your studies to suit your interests by choosing your modules. I know I made the right decision to continue my learning at the Royal Agricultural University to a postgraduate level.”**  
Katherine Hannam, MSc Business Management

## Did you know

Hear more from our students in a series of RAU experience films on our Royal Agricultural University YouTube channel. [www.youtube.com/user/RoyalAgUni](http://www.youtube.com/user/RoyalAgUni)



# Discover Cirencester

Set within 25 acres of beautiful countryside, the RAU campus has a rich academic and social culture.

Our location in Cirencester, otherwise known as the capital of the Cotswolds, provides the perfect base from which to explore this spectacular region of South West England. With Bath, Bristol, Cheltenham and Oxford all an hour's drive away, and a direct train to London in 90 minutes, Cirencester is the perfect place to call 'home'.

The University is an integral part of the town, with its lively social scene right on your doorstep. Cirencester has a great sense of history and is awash with museums, art galleries, boutiques and high street favourites, with plenty of cafés and restaurants to unwind in along the way.

For the sportier individuals, Cotswold Water Park offers kayaking, canoeing, sailing, rowing, wakeboarding, and windsurfing across its magnificent 150 lakes. All these high speed, wet water, white-knuckle rides are just 15 minutes' drive away from the University campus.

Find out more about Cirencester and everything it has to offer on our website.

[www.rau.ac.uk/Cirencester](http://www.rau.ac.uk/Cirencester)

Bath, Bristol, Cheltenham and Oxford are all within an hour of the University



90 minute direct train to London





# Make your mark

Your success is our priority. Whatever your ambitions, we can help you get there.

## Solution focused

Our courses will equip you with the skills and experience to meet the most pressing global challenges of the 21st century.

## Outstanding facilities

Our Farm491 agri-tech incubator provides start-up businesses with the facilities and support they need to get off the ground running. In a vibrant business community, students, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and innovators work together to make a difference.

Farm491 membership is free to any full fee-paying RAU student wishing to start an agri-tech business.

[www.farm491.com](http://www.farm491.com)

Our award-winning Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Programme (EEP) provides an inspiring and supportive environment in which you can share, develop and launch your business ideas. Guided by lawyers, business mentors, marketing professionals and accountants, this is your chance to realise your ambitions in a professional and rewarding environment. Since its launch in 2007, the EEP has helped 163 students transform their ideas into a winning business plan. 45 of those students are now working on their own business professionally. 48 student businesses have been launched, with a 82% success rate (compared with 44% nationally\*).



Find out more on our website. [www.rau.ac.uk/enterprise](http://www.rau.ac.uk/enterprise)

The support we provide takes place at four levels:

- **Think it** for when you are just starting out
- **Try it** proof of concept, gaining market research, and starting to formulate your business model
- **Launch it** take action and get ready to start trading
- **Grow it** for developing your new business

\*Source: Office for National Statistics.



## Business support

We're building a new £4.2m project which will support both rural and agri-tech businesses. Over £3m funding was provided by the GFirst LEP, Gloucestershire's Local Enterprise Partnership. It will be home to Farm491 as well as the Cirencester Growth Hub, which will assist local businesses to accelerate growth, create new jobs and achieve their potential. We recently launched five workshops at our Rural Innovation Centre at Harnhill Farm, for Farm491 members to research, test and refine their ideas.

## Hands-on experience

With two of our own farms, an equestrian centre, a rural skills training programme, Farm491 and the Growth Hub, you'll gain practical experience while developing your theoretical expertise.

## Diverse perspectives

Our 15,000+ strong global alumni network of agri-tech innovators, politicians and entrepreneurs offers fantastic opportunities for socialising, networking and professional development.



# Your future starts here

The RAU will help you develop a lifetime's worth of skills and connections.

Practical hands-on experience is as important as desk-based research and classroom teaching, which is why you'll have the chance to take part in study trips abroad and complete work placements with industry partners.

You could find yourself expanding your employability skills and building a portfolio of contacts in a range of industries including accountancy, agrochemicals, equine sports

and management, farming, food supply chain, horticulture, journalism, land agency and poultry production.

Former RAU students have travelled as far afield as Australia, the Philippines, South Africa and Uganda for work placements, while others have found themselves honing their professional and cultural skills in places including Brussels, Cambodia, the Czech Republic, Finland and Mexico.

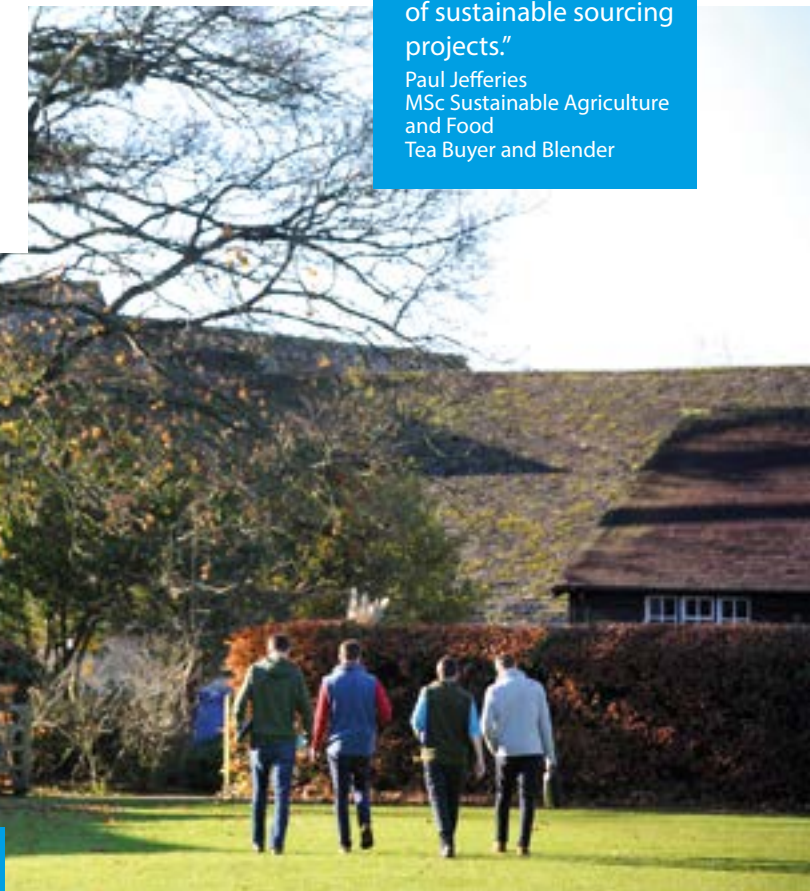


The University has an outstanding reputation, excellent facilities and lecturing and a valuable network of industry contacts. I look forward to utilising the skills gained during my degree to support start-up businesses within the growing agri-tech sector."

Verity Payne  
MSc Business Management Farm491 Centre Coordinator

## Did you know

On average over five years, 90% of RAU postgraduates have secured employment or further study within six months of graduating.



I was looking for a Masters course to add an additional layer of academic expertise to my professional experience. The course itself is led by passionate teachers with a wide range of specialist knowledge. I now work for Typhoo as a Tea Buyer and Blender, where I have been working on implementing a range of sustainable sourcing projects."

Paul Jefferies  
MSc Sustainable Agriculture and Food  
Tea Buyer and Blender



# Key dates

## Semester dates for 2018-19

Induction Week 24 September – 28 September 2018

### Semester 1

1 October – 7 December 2018

Christmas break 8 December 2018 – 6 January 2019

7 January – 8 February 2019

### Semester 2

11 February – 29 March 2019

Easter break 30 March – 28 April 2019

29 April – 21 June 2019

Please note the University is closed for the Easter holiday 30 March – 2 April 2018.



## Registration

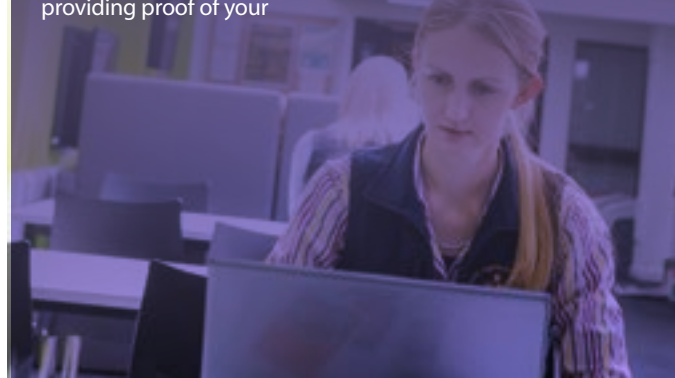
To complete your formal enrolment at the RAU you must register with the central administration. Here at the RAU, this is a two-part process.

- Part 1 Online Self Registration: to be completed online.
- Part 2 Onsite Registration: you'll complete this on Monday 24 September here on the RAU campus.

Onsite registration is a straightforward process which involves you providing proof of your

identity and eligibility to study in the UK. You'll be issued with your student card which will confirm your status as a registered RAU student and allow you to use restricted access buildings, such as the Library.

We'll email you towards the end of August / beginning of September (September starters) or late January (February starters) with joining instructions and advise you on which documents you must bring with you to Onsite Registration.



# Money matters

We believe in creating equal opportunities for all. We offer a number of scholarships to reward local students, as well as bursaries for those who need additional support.

We have scholarships for sports students and outstanding achievers, as well as a range of other scholarships available to students who are undertaking particular routes of study and research.

Visit our website to find out how we could help you make the right start [www.rau.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.rau.ac.uk/scholarships).

All RAC / RAU alumni who are accepted for postgraduate study at the RAU are eligible for a 20% reduction in tuition fees. The 20% reduction in fees is also available to visiting students who have completed a minimum of one term of studies at the RAU campus

[www.rau.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.rau.ac.uk/scholarships)





# Your home from home

At the RAU there is a place for everyone and everyone has the chance to find their place.

There are 320 bedrooms across our campus accommodation for you to choose from, including standard rooms, twin rooms, en-suite rooms or rooms with shared bathroom facilities. You can opt for self-catered or catered.

The majority of our rooms are for our undergraduate students but we do have availability for our postgraduate students as well. There are three designated quiet accommodation areas on campus which are a mixture of postgraduate students and students who request a quiet block.

Applications for on-campus accommodation are now open. Log on to the My RAU applicant portal to submit your application.

## Prefer to live off campus?

We've teamed up with Cotswolds District Council to provide practical tips and tools in helping you to find accommodation within the local community.

Visit the Urban Fox website for more information.

<https://urbanfox.info>



## Did you know

You can view our accommodation guide online. <http://publications.rau.ac.uk/accommodation>

You can also speak to one of our advisers in the Accommodation Office.

01285 889823  
[accommodation@rau.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@rau.ac.uk)





# Useful web and email addresses

## Postgraduate applications

[www.rau.ac.uk/pg-admissions](http://www.rau.ac.uk/pg-admissions)

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## Fees

[www.rau.ac.uk/pg-fees](http://www.rau.ac.uk/pg-fees)

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## Accommodation

[www.rau.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.rau.ac.uk/accommodation)

Email: [accommodation@rau.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@rau.ac.uk)

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## Scholarships, awards and bursaries

[www.rau.ac.uk/pg-funding](http://www.rau.ac.uk/pg-funding)

Email: [scholarships@rau.ac.uk](mailto:scholarships@rau.ac.uk)

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## Student Union

[www.rau.ac.uk/social](http://www.rau.ac.uk/social)

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## RAU campus map

[www.rau.ac.uk/RAUmap](http://www.rau.ac.uk/RAUmap)

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