

INTERVENTION



Engagement with local civil society through
credit bearing and non-credit bearing activities

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University of Reading

School of Agriculture, Policy & Development



Agriculture building

East entrance

Agriculture
Agriculture, Policy
and Development

Food Economics and Marketing
Graduate Institute of
International Development and
Applied Economics

Walker Institute

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE, POLICY & DEVELOPMENT

Bringing together talented students and staff from
c. 80 different countries

- 550 undergraduate students (20% overseas)
- 130 MSc students (70% overseas)
- 180 PhD students (60% overseas)
- 180 staff

TWO CASE STUDIES

1. A credit bearing module
2. A non-credit bearing award scheme

THE LODDON OBSERVATORY

University of Reading has a significant presence in research relating to sustainable land management

The problem:

- Disparate approach to site selection for research purposes

The objective

- To focus research in a single, local catchment
- Aim to integrate this research platform with activities relates to teaching and local citizenship



Thames Catchment c. 16,000 km² 13 million people

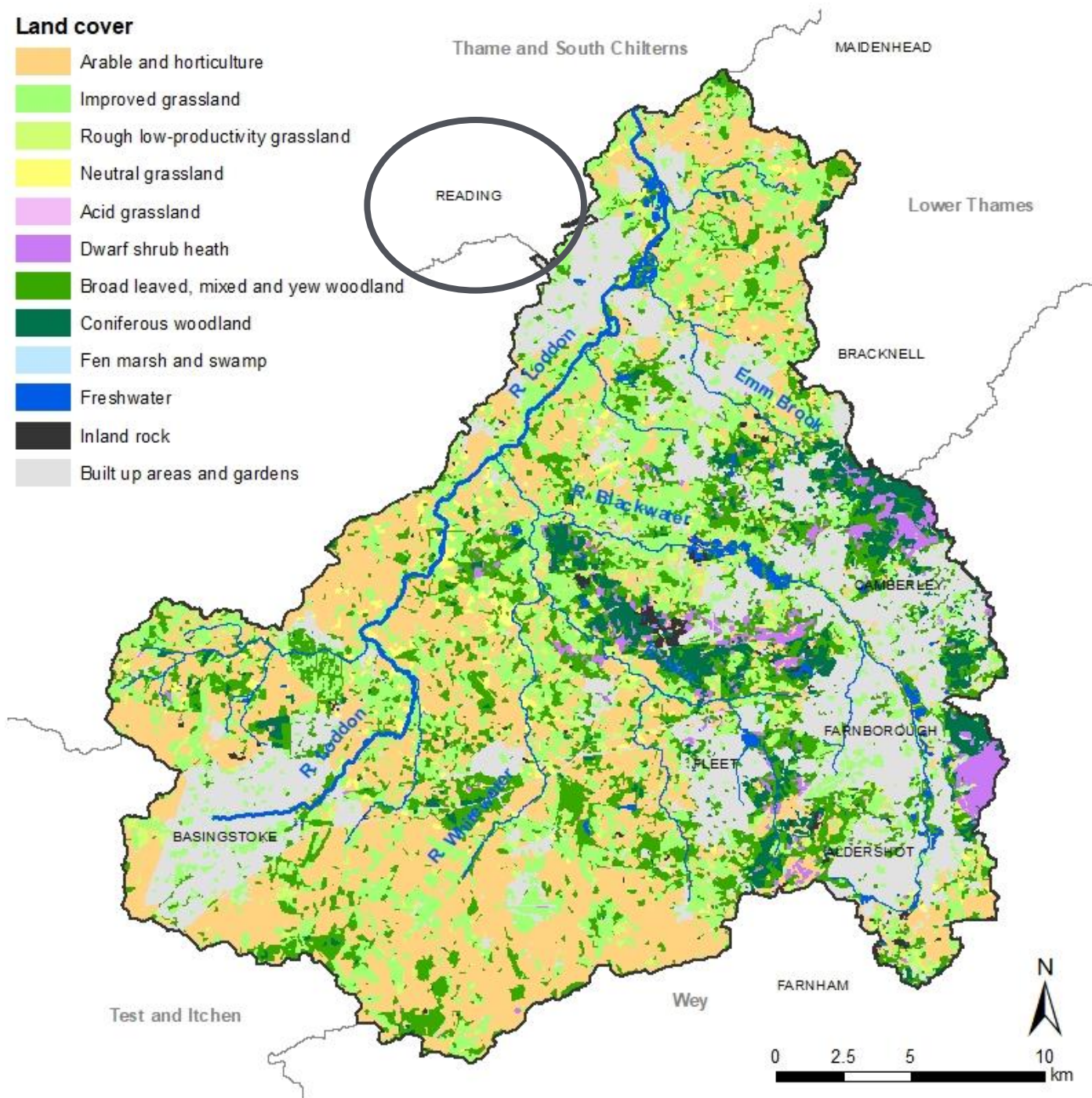
Reading

London

Loddon
Catchment
c. 700 km²

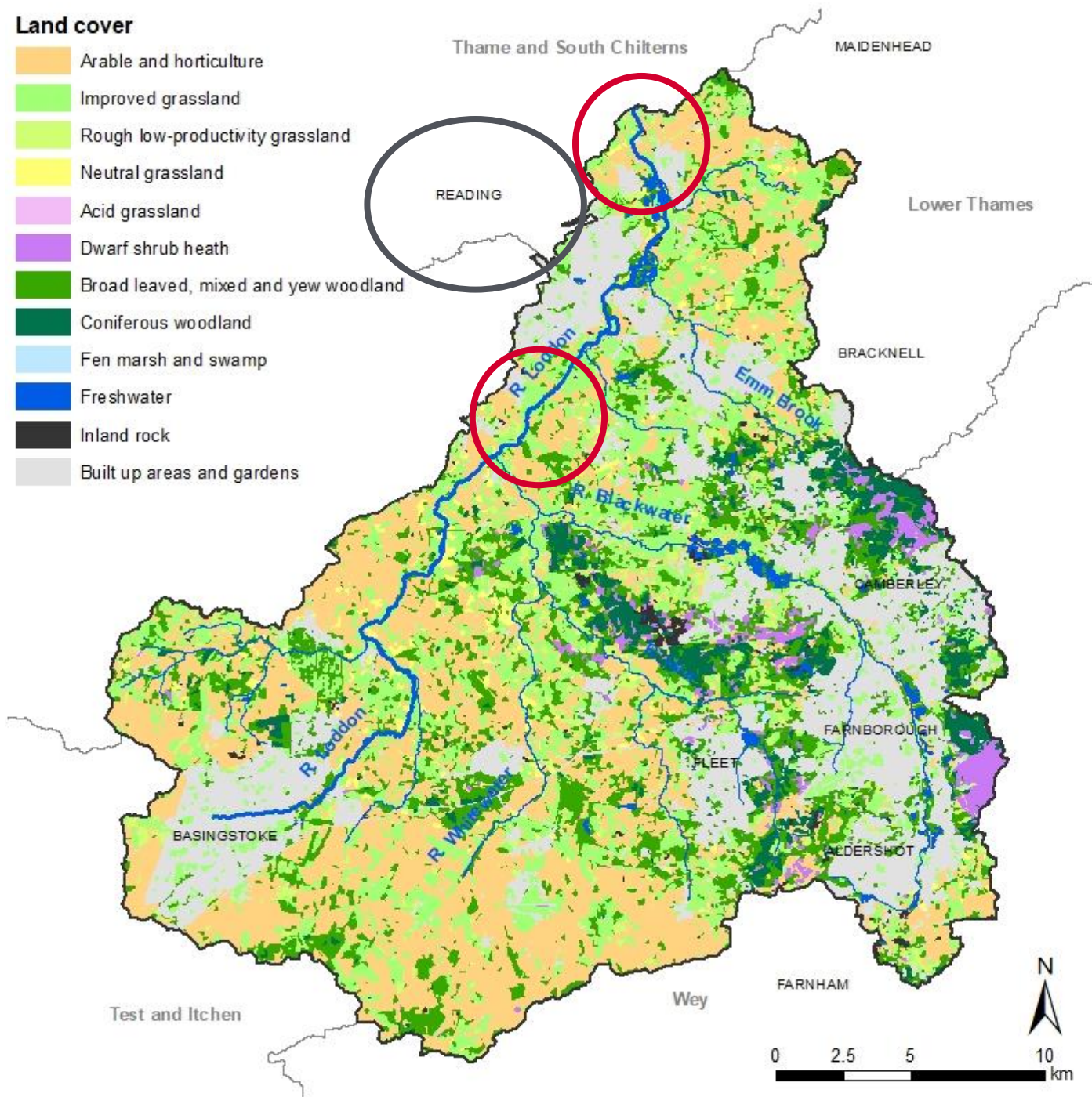
Land cover

- Arable and horticulture
- Improved grassland
- Rough low-productivity grassland
- Neutral grassland
- Acid grassland
- Dwarf shrub heath
- Broad leaved, mixed and yew woodland
- Coniferous woodland
- Fen marsh and swamp
- Freshwater
- Inland rock
- Built up areas and gardens



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LODDON OBSERVATORY

- A research platform
- An opportunity for engagement with local civil society
- A teaching and learning opportunity



LODDON CATCHMENT CONSULTANTS

- Part 2 BSc module (Level 5)
- Taught over 1 year
- 10 ECTS credits

Prof Jo Clark
1978-2022



MODULE AIMS AND OUTCOMES

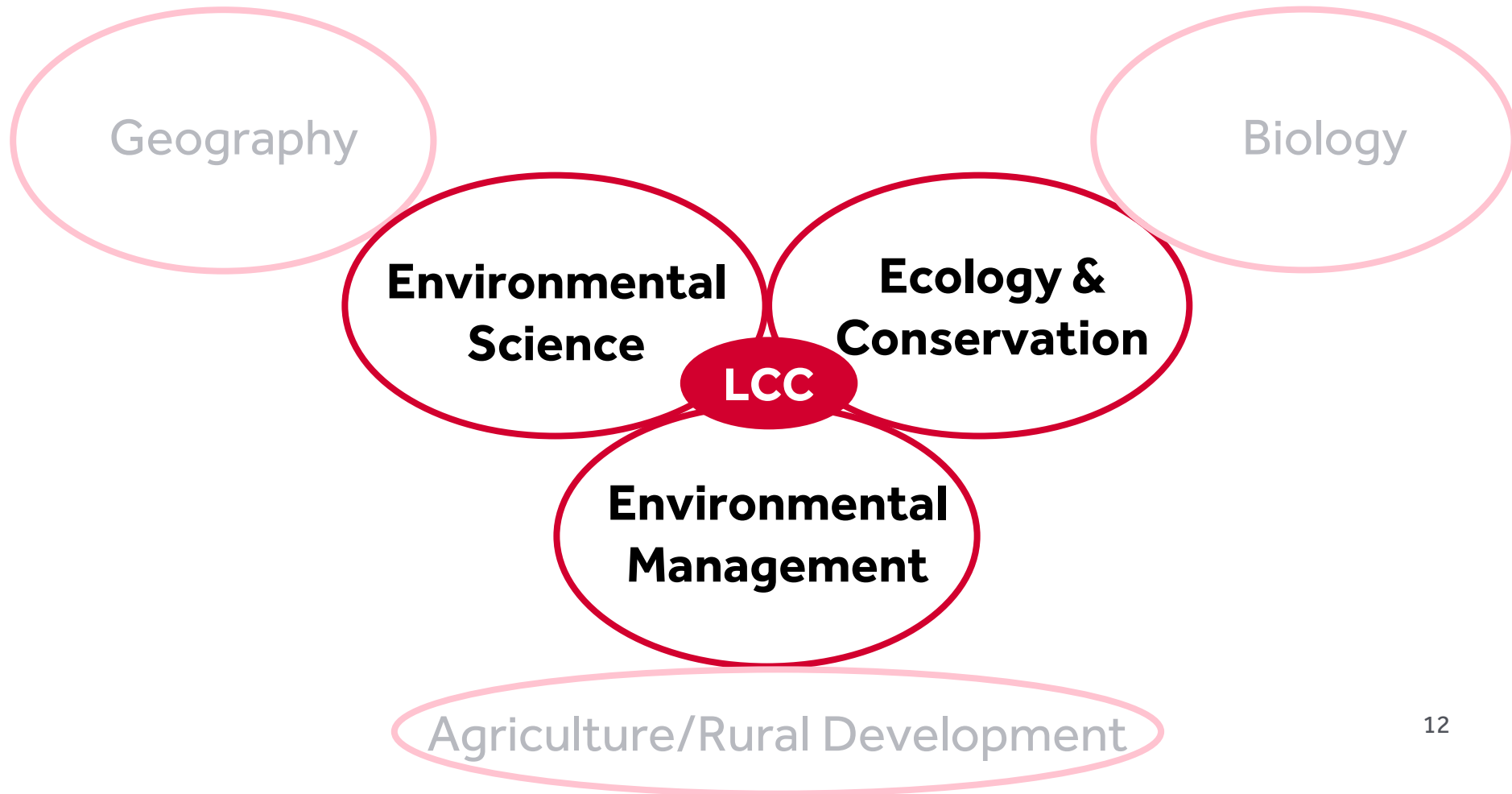
Aims:

- To develop a deep understanding of environmental processes
- To develop skills relevant to employability.
- To enable students to act as academic partners in research and impact

Assessable learning outcomes:

- Identify and evaluate personal strengths and training needs
- Demonstrate competency in team work
- Design a work plan for the project and evaluate progress
- Assess available evidence, recognising limitations and gaps in knowledge
- Summarise relevant project outputs to meet the client's needs

STUDENT PARTICIPANTS



CATCHMENT CONSULTANTS

Projects formulated by real clients

- Farmers and estate managers
- Public sector agencies and municipalities
- Third sector (conservation trusts, fishing groups)

Example projects

- Invasive species
- Distribution of rare species
- Natural flood management
- Efficacy of buffer strips



STRUCTURE & ASSESSMENT

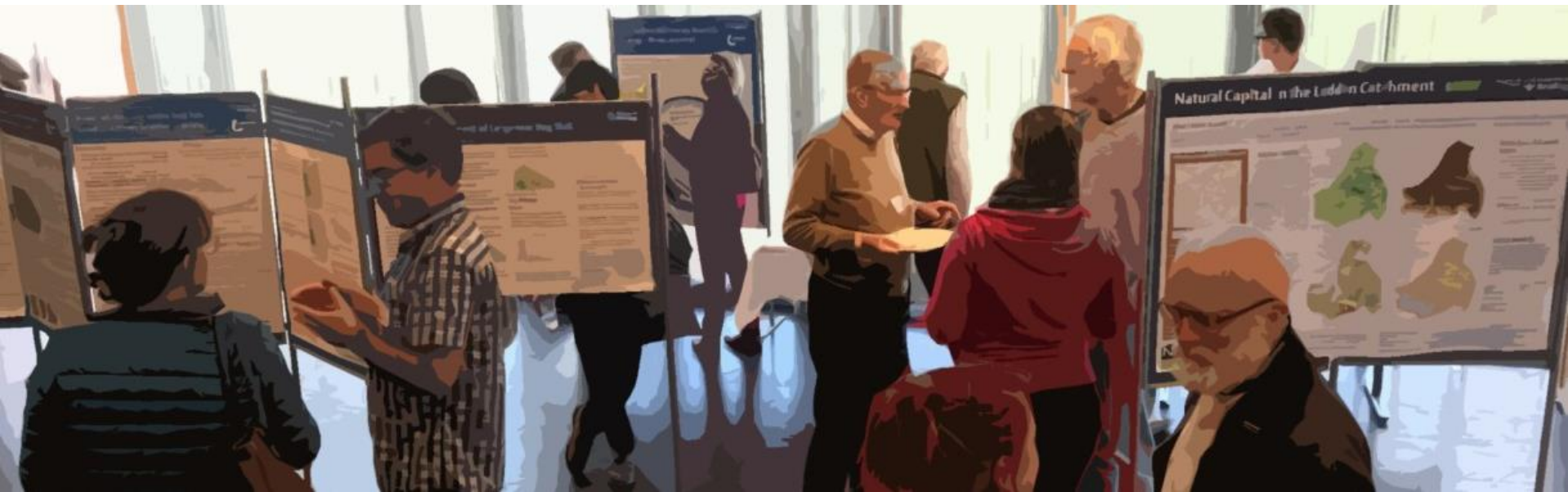
- Projects announced
- Students apply for a role in a team
- Teams plan project activities
- Fieldwork and data analysis

Assessment 1: CV

Assessment 2: Project Plan

Assessment 3: Poster and Report

Assessment 4: Reflective Account





TWO CASE STUDIES

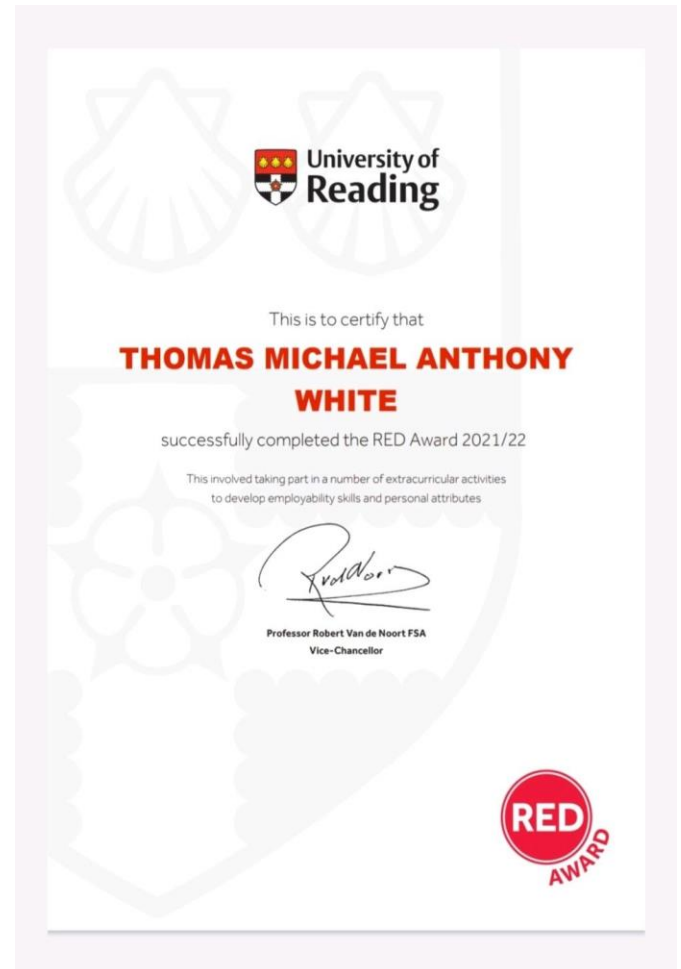
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'RED' AWARD

- The Reading Experience Development ("RED") Award
- Now in 12th year
- To encourage activity leading to a broadening of student experience
- Within one year:
 - 35 hours activity (volunteering, internship, employment)
 - 5 hour training relevant to that activity



'RED' AWARD



'RED' AWARD

- From 2022



RED Sustainable Action Award

An opportunity to develop awareness of sustainable issues, solutions and opportunities while developing your employability skills



RED Award

Gain experience and stand out from the crowd in an increasingly competitive job market.



RED Global Engagement Award

An opportunity to build your knowledge of other cultures and global issues, while taking action to become more globally engaged



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION