

# UNIVERSITY ASPIRATIONS DAY



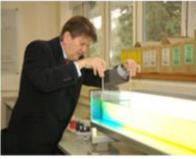
Professor Richard Allan - Lecturer and Researcher  
in the Department of Meteorology

1

Welcome to the University of Reading! I work here in the Department of Meteorology where I teach students and research about Earth's climate.

I first became interested in the climate when I was just a bit younger than you and I had just enjoyed my first really snowy winter (1981-82) and began to wonder why the weather changes and how we can forecast it days ahead. I was also fascinated by ice ages. If Dr Who could take you back in time 20,000 years, you'd find giant ice sheets occupied much of North America and they also reached northern Britain – I began to wonder how they come about? So I studied science and maths (in between playing football) and was able to investigate these questions, and others, in much more detail at University while also meeting new friends and learning to live away from home for the first time. And now I'm here, teaching and doing research into the weather and climate.

So some things which inspire you when you are at Primary school may take you on a journey that lasts for the rest of your life!



## BEING A SCIENTIST IS...

- **Exciting:** discover things no-one knew before
- **Fun:** doing experiments is fun!
- **Useful:** better forecasts can save people's lives
- **Employable:** lots of well-paid jobs for scientists

## TO BECOME A SCIENTIST:

- Work hard at maths, science and computing
- Read interesting science books

LIMITLESS POTENTIAL | LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES | LIMITLESS IMPACT

Being a scientist is exciting because you get to discover things that no one has looked at before. It's also fun because you can do experiments and use computers. It can also be useful – better forecasts can save people's lives. There are lots of well-paid jobs for scientists.

To achieve what you want you need to study the right school subjects. For weather and climate you need to study maths and science as well (as being interested in geography and the environment).

After studying on our degree program, our students find lots of interesting jobs. For example, they can forecast the weather, research into how our climate is changing and use satellite data to help people in Africa deal with variable rainfall. Knowing about maths and science can also get you highly paid jobs. But it is also important to consider that we live in an amazing but fragile world and some of you will be able to do something that helps people and the planet we live on.

## TODAYS ACTIVITIES

Start	Finish	Group 1: Hurricanes	Group 2: Sting Jets	Group 3: Tornadoes
10:00	10:20	WELCOME		
10:20	11:30	Observatory tour and Weather balloon launch		
11:30	12:00	Bubbles	Clouds in a bottle	Fluid tank experiment
12:00	12:30	LUNCH		
12:30	13:00	Fluid tank experiment	Bubbles	Clouds in a bottle
13:00	13:30	Clouds in a bottle	Fluid tank experiment	Bubbles
13:30	14:30	CAMPUS TRAIL		

**Bubbles:** Outside this building

**Clouds in a bottle:** Instruments lab (downstairs)

**Fluid tank experiment:** Fluids lab (downstairs)

**Lunch and Treasure Hunt Start:** in this room



3

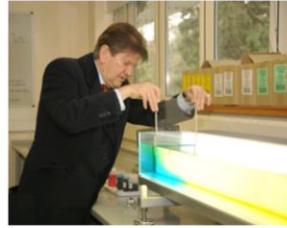
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Today's activities are just a small taster of experimenting with the weather and what a University campus is like.

After visiting the atmospheric observatory, where we make measurements of the climate and weather, you will see a weather balloon launch (these are used to measure how warm and wet the air is above our heads). You'll then be split into groups: you'll be using bubbles to tell us about the winds, conducting experiments to make clouds and tornadoes in a bottle and watching a demonstration of waves in a water tank. Finally you get to explore the University campus by following a trail.

The scientists helping today would really like to hear all your questions along the way!

# HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR DAY!



4

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