







RECOGNITION GUIDE 2023 ENTRY

REALISING OPPORTUNITIES

Working Together | Supporting Talent

Contents

2 Welcome

4 Getting recognition from RO Partner universities

5 RO offers explained

6 FAQs

7 **University of Birmingham**

8 **University of Exeter**

9 **Lancaster University**

10 **University of Leeds**

11 **University of Leicester**

12 **University of Liverpool**

13 **Loughborough University**

14 **Newcastle University**

15 **University of Nottingham**

16 **Queen Mary University of London**

17 **The University of Sheffield**

18 **UCL**

19 **University of Warwick**

20 **University of York**

21 Key contacts

Welcome

We hope you enjoy taking part in Realising Opportunities (RO). The programme is a chance for you to develop skills that will be beneficial during your current studies and at university.

For your commitment to the RO programme you will benefit by receiving additional consideration from the RO Partner universities when you apply to them through UCAS. You could also receive alternative RO offers which are typically two A level grades (or equivalent) lower than the standard offer.

However, it is important to note that recognition can vary at the RO Partner universities and there are some course exemptions. You should read each of the university statements on the following pages so you can understand what this means for you.

Because of the number of RO Partner universities, this guide contains a lot of information – but you don't need to feel overwhelmed. The RO Recognition Guide will remain on the RO website throughout your time on RO, so it's there whenever you want to look at it.

> Getting an alternative offer would remove some of the stress I was already feeling; it helped me to relax and focus on the necessary (revising and getting good grades) instead of panicking about whether or not I will be granted a place.
>
> **RO student 2018-2020**



Getting recognition from RO Partner universities

You will benefit from using this guide at different points on your journey to university. We recommend checking this guide at the following times:

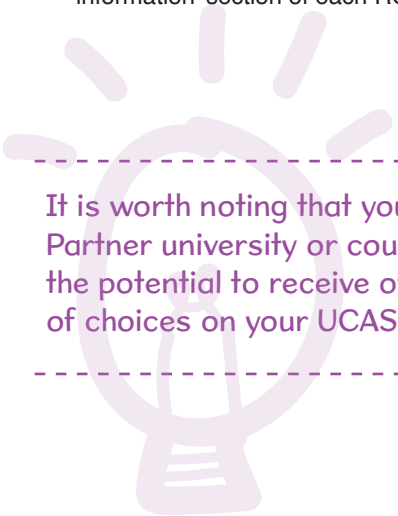
- **When you are researching the courses you might like to apply to**, check the Partner university pages to see what recognition you could receive. For some courses it is not possible to gain an alternative RO offer. Where relevant these are referred to in the 'Course exemptions' section of each Partner university recognition statement within this guide.

- **You could use this guide to discuss your university choices** with your parents/carers or teachers at school/college, so they understand the options available to you and are able to support you with this information in mind.

- **When applying to RO Partner universities through the UCAS Hub** you should identify yourself as an RO student. Guidance on how to do this will be emailed to you in summer 2022. Please look out for this communication and if you have any questions when you come to submit your application then please contact info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk

- **When a RO Partner university makes you an offer**, check this guide alongside details of the standard offer to see if you have received the offer you expected.

- **If you have a query about a course or offer**, you can refer to the 'For further information' section of each RO Partner university's recognition statement.



It is worth noting that you are not limited to applying to one RO Partner university or course. You can apply to, and have the potential to receive offers from, the maximum number of choices on your UCAS application (which is usually five).

RO offers explained

Dual offers

When alternative RO offers are given, this will be in the form of a dual offer which will include the standard offer and the alternative RO offer. Alternative RO offers are dependent upon the successful completion of the RO programme. Alternative RO offers are typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer. For example, this means a standard offer of AAB could be reduced by 2 grades to ABC or BBB. If the example standard offer of AAB was reduced by one grade, this could be ABB.

Other admissions criteria

Your offers will be dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria such as GCSE requirements, predicted grades, subject specific requirements, work experience, interview performance or portfolio submission. You should check the relevant university's online prospectus to understand these course requirements for any university and/or course you may be interested in.





Passing the RO programme

If you receive an alternative RO offer from a RO Partner university it will be dependent on your successful completion of the RO programme. In order to pass the RO programme you must:

- Attend at least 2 events or activities run by a RO Partner university (this usually is the Launch event and National Student Conference).
- Complete and pass the skills4uni challenge and quiz.
- Complete the Academic Skills Module.

The RO Central Team will communicate your successful completion of the RO programme to the RO Partner universities. Make sure you check the conditions of any offers you receive carefully. If you have any questions about your progress on the RO programme please contact info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk

FAQs

What if I haven't passed RO yet?

As long as you record your participation in RO on your UCAS form (see page 4 of this guide), the RO Partner universities will know that you are a RO student. If, when you apply, you still have aspects of the programme to complete, any alternative offers you are made will be subject to your successful completion of the programme. The RO Central Team update the RO Partner universities on your RO progress before results day. Any universities you are holding offers with will have access to your grades. This means they will be able to confirm whether you have passed the programme and met the terms of your alternative RO offer.

What if I want to take a gap year?

You may be looking to go to university straight after completing your post 16-studies or you may be interested in taking time out before starting university. RO students that successfully complete the RO programme can access the associated recognition for up to two years after leaving post-16 studies. An example is if you left post-16 studies in 2023, you would be eligible for RO recognition for 2024 and 2025 entry to university. If you have any queries about this then please contact info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk

Why do Partner universities give alternative offers?

RO Partner universities are committed to widening access to university, and Realising Opportunities supports RO Partner universities to reach more young people. In completing the compulsory elements of the RO programme, students gain skills, experience and knowledge to help them succeed at university and beyond. RO Partner universities recognise this effort and commitment with their alternative RO offers.



University of Birmingham



Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Birmingham through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria which can include subject-specific requirements such as interview performance, aptitude tests and GCSE grades.

Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower or
- Up to 2 International Baccalaureate points in Higher Level subjects or
- 1 full BTEC National Diploma grade or
- A reduced number of distinctions required for an Access to HE course

Medicine and Dentistry

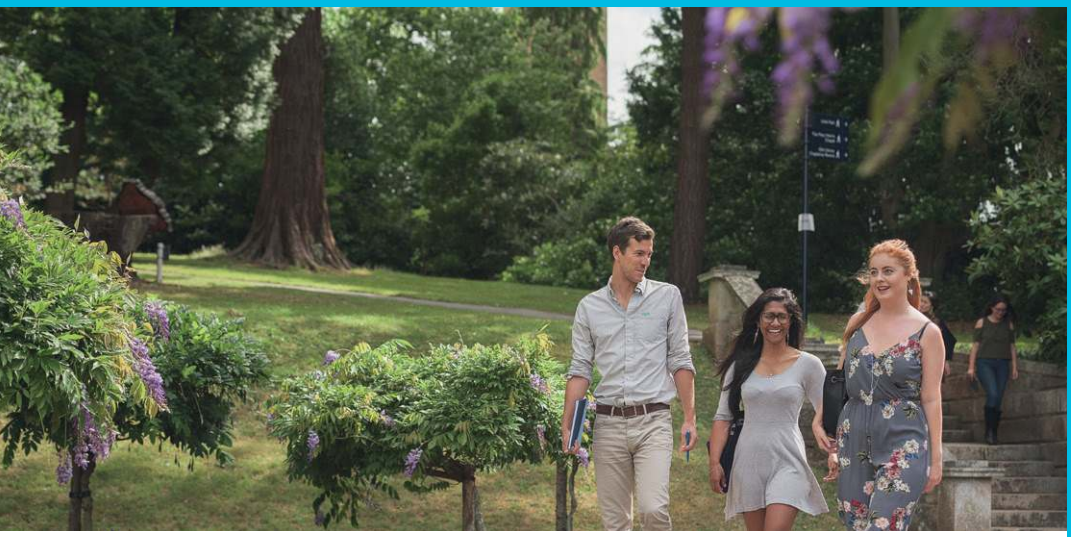
The standard offer for Medicine and Dentistry is AAA. The typical RO alternative offer is ABB (including Chemistry and Biology, minimum predicted grades BBB) plus successful completion of RO. Students need to have a minimum of seven GCSEs at grade 4 or above. The following subjects must all be at grade 5 minimum and any two must be at grade 7 minimum: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Chemistry and Biology (or double Science). Students will also be required to sit the UCAT.

Course exemptions

Alternative RO offers will be made for all degree courses at the University of Birmingham where an offer is made. Alternative offers will not be made on Foundation Year programmes.

For further information
For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit **www.birmingham.ac.uk.** Remember that it is important that you check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.

University of Exeter



Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Exeter through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

Alternative offers

If you receive an offer from the University of Exeter it will be an RO dual offer which will consist of the following:

- A standard offer for the course to which you are applying.
- An alternative RO offer of typically 2 A level grades or equivalent lower than the standard offer, valid only upon successful completion of the RO programme.

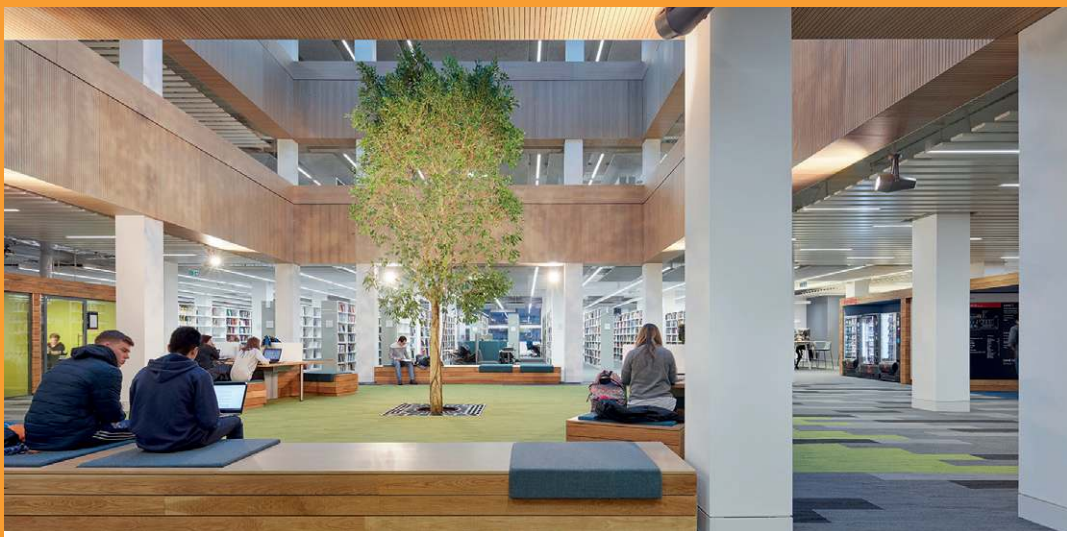
Offers will be made subject to applicants fulfilling any subject specific entry requirements and completing any required admissions tests or interviews.

Course exemptions

There are no course exemptions. Alternative RO offers will be made for all degree courses at the University of Exeter where an offer is made.

For further information
For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit **www.exeter.ac.uk** or email Hayley Stentiford at **realisingopportunities@exeter.ac.uk**. Remember that it is important that you check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.

Lancaster University



Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to Lancaster University through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria, for example:

- subject specific grade requirements
- interview and portfolio performance
- aptitude test
- GCSE grades

Alternative offers

If you are given an offer from Lancaster University it will be a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 3 A level grades or equivalent lower than the standard offer
- Up to 2 full BTEC National Extended Diploma grades

We may specify minimum grades in particular subjects depending on the course entry requirements.

Alternative offers for other, equivalent level 3 qualifications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Details on the qualifications accepted at Lancaster can be found on our website: https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/entry-requirements/undergraduate-qualifications/

Course exemptions

Alternative offers will not be made for the following courses:
A104 Medicine with a Gateway Year MBChB
N2R4 International Business Management (Spain)

A100 Medicine & Surgery

Although Medicine & Surgery (A100) is exempt from the Realising Opportunities programme, there is a medicine specific contextual offer scheme. Realising Opportunities students interested in applying to Medicine and Surgery are encouraged to explore the contextual lowered offer scheme.The alternative Medicine & Surgery contextual offer is subject to completing the supplementary information form and supplying appropriate documentary evidence that you meet Lancaster Medical School's specific eligibility criteria. However, please note that the criteria are slightly different to RO. For more information, please visit: https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lms/medicine/mbchb-medicine-and-surgery/entry-requirements/#d.en.409326

Other information

Some courses require an additional selection process such as an interview, a submission of a portfolio, or aptitude test. For those courses RO applicants will still be required to take part in this before any offer is made.

For certain courses, the offer will be subject to the RO student studying specific subjects and achieving specific grades in those subjects.

For further information

For more information on the range of courses, available and typical entry requirements please visit: **www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/**.

Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you. For further information about Lancaster University and our RO offer, please contact **outreach@lancaster.ac.uk**

University of Leeds



Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Leeds through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer or
- Up to 1 full BTEC National Diploma grade below the standard offer or
- Where possible for other qualifications, the UCAS tariff point equivalent of the above reductions below the standard offer.

Course exemptions

Alternative offers will not be made for courses including a foundation year. Alternative RO offers will be made for undergraduate degree programmes at the University of Leeds where a standard offer is made.

Other information

RO students who study at the University of Leeds are eligible for additional on-course support through The Plus Programme. This support includes academic skills development, social activities and careers guidance.

For further information
For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit **www.leeds.ac.uk /courses.** Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.

University of Leicester



Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Leicester through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower than our standard offer or
- Up to 2 International Baccalaureate points below our standard offer or
- 1 full BTEC National Diploma grade below our standard offer or
- A reduced number of distinctions required for an Access to HE course.

Other recognition

RO students applying to study Medicine (A100) at Leicester Medical School are given a guaranteed interview and a two-grade offer reduction for our five-year Medicine MBChB.

To receive the guaranteed interview, students must be predicted or achieved at least ABB in our required subjects (A in either Biology or Chemistry), have a minimum of a 6/B in GCSE English language, Maths and two Sciences and have a UCAT in the top 8 deciles with a SJT band 1-3. It is also important to include your participation in RO in your UCAS application. For a full overview of the Medicine admissions criteria and selection procedures, please visit httpps://le.ac.uk/medicine/study.

Course exemptions

Alternative offers will not be made for our A199 Medicine with a Foundation Year course, or any of our STEM 'with Foundation Year' programmes (F991/G991/H991/F992/F993/G992/F994/F995).

For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and our typical entry requirements please visit **www.le.ac.uk/study.** Remember that it is important that you check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.

University of Liverpool



Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Liverpool through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria, for example, interview performance, subject-specific requirements and GCSE grades.

Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer or
- For students taking the International Baccalaureate (IB) – up to 2 IB points. Students must also successfully pass the IB Diploma as a whole.
- For students taking a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma - up to 1 grade. For example, where the standard offer is DDD the student must achieve DDM overall*

*Note: not all programmes accept applications from candidates offering BTEC qualifications.

Please see individual course entries in our online prospectus at **www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses**

Other recognition

RO students applying to Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science at the University of Liverpool may not be required to meet the strict GCSE entry requirements outlined in the University's guidelines. Applicants should check the GCSE requirements with the relevant department.

Course exemptions

There are no course exemptions. Alternative RO offers will be made for all degree courses at the University of Liverpool.

For further information
For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit **www.liverpool.ac.uk**. Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.

Loughborough University



Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to Loughborough University through UCAS.

Alternative offers

If you are successful in being made an offer for your chosen course, then you will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer (subject to you successfully completing RO) of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer or
- Up to 2 International Baccalaureate points lower in Higher Level subjects or
- 1 full BTEC National diploma grade lower or
- A reduced number of distinctions required for an Access to HE course.

Please note that specific grades in certain subjects will still be required for some courses.

Course exemptions

Courses which include a Foundation Year are not in a position to make alternative offers.

Other information

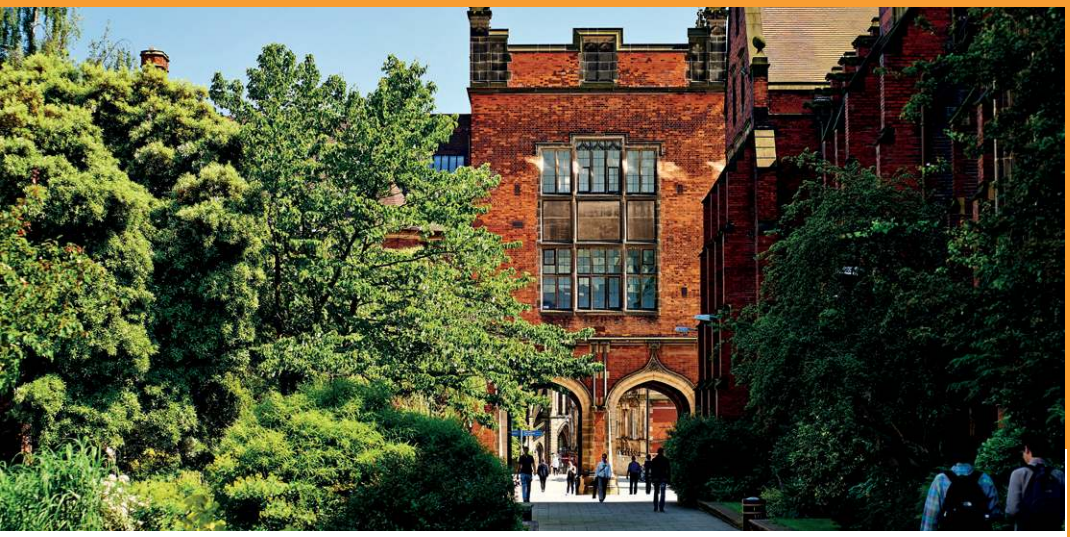
All offers and alternative offers are subject to applicants fulfilling any subject specific entry requirements at A level or equivalent and minimum GCSE or equivalent requirements. For some courses, offers are subject to a successful interview and/or review of a portfolio.

For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit **www.lboro.ac.uk/study/**.

Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you. If you are unclear on any requirements, then please contact **admissions@lboro.ac.uk**.

Newcastle University



Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to Newcastle University through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades (or equivalent) lower than the standard offer for all courses at Newcastle University.

Course exemptions

There are no course exemptions. Alternative RO offers will be made for all degree programmes at Newcastle University where an offer is made.

Other information

For courses that require an additional selection process, such as an interview or submission of a portfolio, RO applicants will still be required to take part in this before any offer is made.

For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit **www.ncl.ac.uk**. Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.

University of Nottingham



Image supplied courtesy of the University of Nottingham ©

Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Nottingham through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer which is typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer.

For undergraduate courses with entry requirements of BBB, the lowest enhanced contextual offer the University of Nottingham would make is BBC.

Course exemptions

Alternative offers will not be made for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, or foundation courses.

Other information

For 2023 entry, the University of Nottingham will provide a contextual offer of 2 A level grades for Realising Opportunities students. If our standard offer includes a specific subject grade, this will generally remain. For example, if the standard offer is AAA with an A in Maths, the contextual offer would be ABB with an A in Maths.

Some courses include an interview or test as part of the entry requirements. You will need to pass this before we can make you an alternative offer.

For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit **https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/courses/a-zsearch.aspx**.

Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.

Queen Mary University of London



Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the Queen Mary University of London through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer or
- Up to 2 International Baccalaureate points in Higher Level subjects

We may specify minimum grades in particular A level or Higher Level subjects depending on the course entry requirements.

Combinations of BTEC and A Level qualifications may not be eligible for the alternative offer, please contact realisingopportunities@qmul.ac.uk before you apply to discuss your qualifications.

Course exemptions

BSc Oral Health (A910) is not eligible for an alternative offer.

Degrees with Integrated Foundation Years and standalone foundation programmes are not eligible for an alternative offer.

Law (M100) and joint programmes involving Law

The offer for RO students applying for our single honours and joint honours programmes involving Law will be AAA. Our standard offer for single honours Law (M100) is A*AA.

Medicine (A100) and Dentistry (A200)

All RO students who meet the minimum GCSE entry requirements, are predicted to achieve AAA in relevant A level subjects and attain a minimum 3rd decile score in the UCAT will automatically be selected for interview. If offered a place, RO students will receive an AAA offer, rather than the standard A*AA offer. There are a smaller number of ring-fenced places (Medicine only) for which RO students who meet minimum GCSE entry requirements, are predicted to achieve AAB and attain a minimum 4th decile score in the UCAT will also be invited for interview. If offered one of these ring-fenced places, RO students will receive an AAB offer, rather than the standard A*AA offer.

For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit **www.qmul.ac.uk**. Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.

The University of Sheffield



Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Sheffield through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower or
- Up to 2 International Baccalaureate Diploma points *(overall Diploma score and not individual Standard or Higher Level Certificate scores)*
- Up to 1 full BTEC National Diploma grade below the standard requirements for your course.

Course exemptions

Alternative offers will not be made for Science and Engineering courses with a Foundation Year or for any of our Foundation Years offered by the Department for Lifelong Learning.

Other information

For courses that require an additional selection process, such as an interview, pre-entry test or submission of a portfolio, RO applicants will still be required to take part in this before any offer is made.

For further information
For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit **www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses**. Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.

UCL



Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to UCL through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer.

Course exemptions

There are no course exemptions. Alternative RO offers will be made for all degree courses at UCL where an offer is made.

Other information

For programmes that require an additional selection process, such as an interview or submission of a portfolio, RO applicants will still be required to take part in this before any offer is made.

For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please Visit: **www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/undergraduate/degrees.** Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.

University of Warwick



Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Warwick through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer or
- Up to 4 International Baccalaureate points lower than the standard offer for entry to that course.

Course exemptions

There are no course exemptions. Alternative RO offers will be made for all degree courses at the University of Warwick where an offer is made.

Other information

Whilst it is important that you meet the admissions criteria for your chosen course (these are available via the **University's prospectus**), Warwick pays particular attention to an applicant's **personal statement** in the admissions process. It is therefore advisable that your statement draws upon your experience on the RO programme, what you have learnt on the programme and how this applies to your chosen course.

By completing the Realising Opportunities programme, you will automatically be considered for our **Warwick Scholars Undergraduate Programme** when coming to study at Warwick.

For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit our **Study At Warwick** pages. Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.

University of York



University of York/John Houlihan

Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of York through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically up to 3 A level grades lower or
- Up to 2 International Baccalaureate points in Higher Level subjects or
- 1 full BTEC National Extended Diploma grade or
- A reduced number of distinctions required for an Access to HE course.

Course exemptions

Alternative offers will not be made for the A101 Medicine with a Gateway Year at Hull York Medical School. Furthermore, the A100 Medicine course at Hull York Medical School has an alternative offer of up to two A Level grades lower.

Other information

For courses that require an additional selection process, such as an interview or submission of a portfolio, RO applicants will still be required to take part in this before any offer is made.

For further information
For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit **www.york.ac.uk /study/undergraduate/.** Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.

Key contacts

The RO Central Team, based at Newcastle University, lead the programme on behalf of the RO Partner universities.

RO Partner universities

Each of the RO Partner universities has dedicated members of staff working on the RO programme. If you have questions about the programme don't hesitate to get in touch with the RO Central Team or the RO contact at your host university.

If you have questions about entry requirements or alternative RO offers, it's best to get in touch with the university concerned directly.

Contact list

You can find an up-to-date list of contacts at

realisingopportunities.ac.uk/KeyContacts.pdf




REALISING OPPORTUNITIES
Working Together | Supporting Talent
Newcastle University
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS
Lancaster University
UNIVERSITY of York
UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL
The University Of Sheffield.
University of Nottingham
Loughborough University
UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER
WARWICK
UNIVERSITY OF EXETER
UCL
Queen Mary University of London

REALISING OPPORTUNITIES
Working Together | Supporting Talent

The Realising Opportunities Central Team
Newcastle University

info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk
www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk

RealisingOpportunities

@RealisingOpps

realising_opportunities

University of Birmingham

University of Exeter

Lancaster University

University of Leeds

University of Leicester

University of Liverpool

Loughborough University

Newcastle University

University of Nottingham

Queen Mary University of London

The University of Sheffield

UCL

University of Warwick

University of York