

2025 entry



# BENEFITS GUIDE

**REALISING  
OPPORTUNITIES**  
Working Together | Supporting Talent



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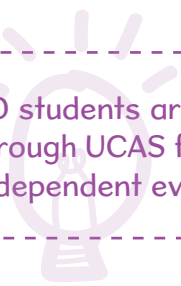
# Welcome

The Realising Opportunities (RO) 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's important to note that recognition can vary across 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.

With 14 RO Partner universities, this guide contains a lot of information – but this guide will remain on the RO website throughout your time on RO, so it's there whenever you want to look at it.

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RO students are significantly more likely to receive an offer through UCAS from a research intensive university – 2023 independent evaluation of the RO programme

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# Getting started with this guide

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 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 2024. Please look out for this communication and if you have any questions when you come to submit your application please contact [info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk](mailto:info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk)

“Being part of the Realising Opportunities programme prepared me well for university. The workshops and masterclasses gave me a real insight into what university was like and made me feel confident about my choices as well as making higher education more accessible for someone from my background. The reduced offer also served as a calming force during the stress of year 13 exam season!”

Sumayya in July 2023, Former RO student 2016-2018

# RO benefits explained

Reading this information will help you to understand the RO Partner university statements.

## Additional consideration

As an RO student, if you apply to one of the RO Partner universities through UCAS, your application will receive additional consideration. Additional consideration means that the RO Partner universities place value on your participation in RO. They recognise that participating in RO prepares you for university life and supports you to make informed decisions about your future. The RO Partner universities consider your participation in RO alongside the strength of your UCAS application.

## Alternative RO offers

**Alternative RO offers are typically 2 A level grades (or equivalent) lower than the standard offer.** For example, as an illustration, this means a standard offer of AAB could be reduced by two grades to BBB or ABC. If the example standard offer of AAB was reduced by one grade, this could be ABB.

Therefore, you will need to look at the standard entry requirements alongside the information in this guide to get the full picture.



Alternative (lower) offers are available for most courses across the 14 RO Partner universities - but there are a small number of exemptions which are listed in the following pages of this guide.

Some courses at some universities may give alternative RO offers with a greater reduction than the typical reduction of 2 A level grades. Read the information for each Partner university to which you are interested in applying.

**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).**



## University specific information

Read the following pages for a summary of the benefits of applying to each of the 14 RO Partner universities as an RO student.

## Standard entry requirements

Alternative RO offers give a reduction on the standard entry requirements. This means you will need to view this guide alongside the standard entry requirements for the relevant year of entry.

If you are applying to 2025 entry to university (which means starting university in Autumn 2025), look at the 2025 entry requirements. These can be found in a prospectus or a course finder and are usually published by Spring. It's important to know that 2025 entry requirements could change between Spring and September 2024 so make sure you double check before submitting your application.

## Other admissions criteria

Usually, alternative RO offers are dependent on applicants meeting all other admissions criteria (such as GCSE requirements, subject specific requirements, work experience, interview performance or portfolio submission). You should check the relevant university's entry requirements to understand these course requirements for any university and/or course you may be interested in.

## Need more info?

This guide covers information relevant to most students - but it doesn't cover every unique situation. Contact the relevant RO Partner universities if you need more information than has been provided. Their contact details are provided in the next pages of this guide.

You will also have different opportunities to speak with staff from the RO Partners directly at RO events like the RO National Student Conference or at the online Q&As.



## Completion of RO

Many alternative RO offers require students to complete the programme as a condition of the lower offer.

## Engagement with the programme

To complete the RO programme, students must:

- Successfully complete the skills4uni challenge
- Complete the Academic Skills Module
- Attend at least two RO events/ activities

Alongside these three core elements, there are lots of other activities and opportunities RO students can choose to engage with to access information and support.

## Gap years and lower offers

RO students who successfully complete the RO programme can access alternative (lower) offers and additional consideration for two years after leaving post-16 studies - which means three years in total. This means you could take two gap years and still access alternative RO offers. For example, if you left school/college in 2025, you would be eligible for RO recognition for 2026 and 2027 entry to university. Alternative RO offers can vary year to year - just like standard entry requirements.

To keep your options open, it's worthwhile completing the RO programme in case your plans change.







## 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 (lower) offers

If your application is successful, you will receive two offers from the University of Birmingham - the standard offer and a Realising Opportunity offer, recognising your successful completion of the programme.

Your alternative RO offer of is 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 is A\*AA and Dentistry is AAA. The typical alternative RO 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.

## Extra support available

The University of Birmingham offers interview support sessions for students who have applied for Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Social Work, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy at Birmingham. You will be contacted via email should you wish to take part.

## 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](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk). Remember that it is important to check the individual requirements for any courses you are interested in.

## Contact information

Contact [realisingopportunities@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:realisingopportunities@contacts.bham.ac.uk) if you still have questions after reading the linked information.



## Additional consideration

When you apply to University of Exeter through UCAS, your application will receive additional consideration due to your participation in RO, as long as you meet all other admissions requirements such as specific GCSE grades or A level subjects.

## Alternative (lower) offers

For most courses, RO students are guaranteed to receive a conditional offer. This is dependent upon any subject-specific or GCSE entry requirements as specified on the relevant course's entry requirements webpage.

This will be an alternative offer which recognises your successful completion of RO. The offer will typically be lower than the standard offer by:

- two A level grades,
- up to two International Baccalaureate points in higher level subjects, or;
- one full BTEC National Diploma grade.

Specific entry requirements for your year of entry are published in the summer before you apply. This will include any new additional considerations which have become available for RO students.

## Courses requiring an interview

For courses requiring an interview (including BMBS Medicine), the University of Exeter guarantee to invite all RO participants to interview, dependent on subject-specific requirements. Alternative offers will be given out based on performance at interview.

For BMBS Medicine, applicants are required to have completed a UCAT or GAMSAT test. A minimum test score is not required for interview, but your test score may be used in the selection process after your interview.

## Course exemptions

There are no course exemptions. All courses will make alternative offers to RO applicants in line with the above information.

## Extra support available

All RO applicants will be automatically eligible for the Senior Scholars programme. Senior Scholars are eligible for a range of bursaries (including the Exeter Scholars Attainment Award), as well as the Transition to Student Life financial support package, support with securing and funding paid internship programmes (A2I scheme), the Enhanced Induction Programme and more.

## Further information

For the full list of Senior Scholars benefits available to RO participants, see: [www.exeter.ac.uk/students/exeterscholars/benefits](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/exeterscholars/benefits)

Full entry requirements for each subject are available at: [www.exeter.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses)

These pages will be updated frequently as you progress through RO, so be sure to check for updates regularly.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with [realisingopportunities@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:realisingopportunities@exeter.ac.uk)





## Admissions

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

If you receive an offer, it will be a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. This means 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

Lancaster University 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 the [undergraduate entry qualifications webpage](#).

## Course exemptions

Alternative (lower) offers will not be made for the following courses:

A104 Medicine with a Gateway Year MBChB

N2R4 International Business Management (Spain)

## A100 Medicine & Surgery

Lancaster Medical School has a contextual offer scheme which is based on information gathered through UCAS and on a secure supplementary form before interviews. RO students may be eligible for a guaranteed interview if they meet the academic entry requirements and can evidence the Medical School **Widening Participation** criteria.

You can find out more about contextual offers on Lancaster's medicine webpages:

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lms/medicine/mbchb-medicine-and-surgery/entry-requirements/#d.en.409326>

## Additional Support

RO students who apply to Lancaster are invited to join the Lancaster Success Programme (LSP). The LSP provides a welcoming and inclusive environment, where students are encouraged to develop their self-awareness and to explore and celebrate their individual versions of success through a programme of coaching-led opportunities. As an LSP student you will be allocated a personal Success Coach and have access to action learning set groups, peer support sessions, LSP socials and networking events, and an enrichment fund.



## Admissions

At the University of Leeds, any student identified as an RO participant is highlighted for admissions who will offer extra consideration to the application. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

## Alternative (lower) 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 the equivalent UCAS tariff points for other qualifications or combinations, including BTECS, IB, where possible.

## Course exemptions

Alternative offers will not be made for courses which include a foundation year.

## Extra support available

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, opportunities for financial support and careers guidance.

## For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit <https://courses.leeds.ac.uk>. For each course you will see the typical A-level offer and also the typical Access to Leeds offer, RO students are entitled to a reduced offer in line with the Access to Leeds offer. Remember that it is important to check the individual requirements for any courses you are interested in and understand what this means for you.

## Contact information

Please contact the Leeds RO team on [ROPS@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:ROPS@leeds.ac.uk) or 0113 343 8952.



## 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 subject specific admissions criteria, which may include aptitude tests and interviews.

## Alternative offers (excluding Medicine)

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 below the standard offer or
- 1 full BTEC National Diploma grade below the standard offer or
- A reduced number of distinctions required for an Access to HE course.

## Alternative offers (A100 Medicine)

RO students applying to study Medicine (A100) at Leicester Medical School must meet the standard GCSE minimum requirements for Medicine.

To be invited directly to interview (without the combined score of your academic achievement and the UCAT being considered), RO students must have completed the RO programme by 31 December 2024 **AND** be predicted or have achieved at least AAA at first sitting in our required subjects (to include

either Biology or Chemistry, and one from Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Psychology or Physics), have a minimum of a 6/B in GCSE English language, Maths and two Sciences (at first sitting); and have a UCAT score in the top 7 deciles with a SJT band 1-3.

The standard offer for Medicine is A\*AA and the alternative offer for those with successful completion of RO is AAA (including Biology or Chemistry, plus one other science from Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Physics or Psychology). The alternative RO offer for IB is 34 points overall with 6,6,6, at higher level in the subjects above. If you are applying with completed A-levels, the alternative offer only applies for those with a single gap year.

For a full overview of the Medicine admissions criteria and selection procedures, please visit <https://le.ac.uk/medicine/study>.

## Course exemptions

Direct invites to interviews and alternative RO offers will not be made for A199 Medicine with a Foundation Year course, nor any 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 typical entry requirements please visit [www.le.ac.uk/study](https://www.le.ac.uk/study). Remember that it is important to check the individual requirements for any courses you are interested in and understand what this means for you.





## Admissions

Realising Opportunities (RO) participation is one of the contextual indicators in an application that is noted and considered by the University of Liverpool. It is taken into account in the same way that consideration is given for mitigating circumstances or contextual data.

With the exception of Foundation (Year 0) Programmes, courses at the University of Liverpool give alternative RO offers which are up to 2 A level grades (or equivalent) lower than the standard offer.

If a RO applicant is eligible for a contextual admissions offer, which would be two grades lower than the standard offer, then they would receive this offer instead of an alternative RO offer.

## Course exemptions

Alternative (lower) offers will not be made for Foundation (Year 0) Programmes.

## Extra support available

Upon entry to the University of Liverpool, RO applicants will be automatically eligible for the Realising Opportunities Award, a financial payment worth £2,000 per year for the duration of your undergraduate programme.

## Further information

- Undergraduate study at the University of Liverpool: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/undergraduate/>
- Contextual Admissions Indicator Tool: <https://contextual-admissions.liverpool.ac.uk/>
- Contextual Admissions: [www.liverpool.ac.uk/undergraduate/applying/policies-and-statements/contextual-data/contextual-admissions/](https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/undergraduate/applying/policies-and-statements/contextual-data/contextual-admissions/)

## Contact information

- For queries relating to a course or application to the University of Liverpool, please contact: [uguk@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:uguk@liverpool.ac.uk)
- For queries about the Realising Opportunities Programme at Liverpool, please contact: [ROP@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:ROP@liverpool.ac.uk)





## Admissions

At Loughborough your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when applying through UCAS. If successful in being made an offer for your chosen course, 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.

Please note that specific grades in certain subjects will still be required for some courses. Contact Loughborough directly if you have any questions.

## Course exemptions

Alternative offers will not be made for courses which include a Foundation Year.

## Extra support available

An RO student who starts their studies at Loughborough will automatically join the Success programme, which is partnered with the Student Success Academy at the University. The programme supports students throughout their whole university journey, offering a wide range of personalised opportunities and tailored programmes designed to help unlock future potential.

Alongside this, former RO students are actively encouraged to apply to the Student Ambassador Scheme. This is a paid role which is flexible to fit around your studies and extra-curricular activities. It provides students with opportunities to enhance their personal development, boost their CV and earn extra income.

In addition, Loughborough also offers a range of bursaries and scholarships. To give you an idea of what's on offer, visit their website <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/fees-funding/scholarships>

## Further information

Interested in studying at Loughborough? Visit their study page for more information on their courses, the campus community and student life <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/study>

More information on contextual admissions can be found on Loughborough's website <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/entry-requirements/contextual-admissions>

## Contact information

If you have any questions, please get in contact with Loughborough's RO Team by emailing [R.O@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:R.O@lboro.ac.uk)



## Admissions

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

If you are made 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.

## Extra Support

The UCAT threshold may be lower for RO applicants to Medicine and Dentistry as part of the Admissions process. However, this can't be guaranteed as it depends upon the performance of each individual cohort.

## Contact information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit [www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate). Remember that it is important to check the individual requirements for any courses you are interested in and understand what this means for you.

Please contact Newcastle via email if you need any further information [realising.opportunities@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:realising.opportunities@newcastle.ac.uk)



## Admissions

As an RO student, you will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Nottingham through UCAS. If you are made an offer, you will receive a dual offer – one offer will be the standard offer for that course and the second will be an alternative RO offer, which will be reliant on you successfully completing the RO programme. The alternative RO offer is 2 grades lower than the standard offer.

If the 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 alternative RO offer would be ABB with an A in Maths.

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

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

## Course exemptions

A maximum of one grade reduction will be made for Veterinary Medicine and Medicine.

Alternative offers will not be made for foundation courses, which are already set at the lowest grade entry requirements of BBC.

## Further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/ugstudy/See\\_all\\_courses.html](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/ugstudy/See_all_courses.html)

Full details of the contextual admissions policy can be found on this link [www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/applying/contextual-offers.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/applying/contextual-offers.aspx)

Contextual (lower) offers are made to applicants with a wide range of qualification profiles, including applicants with A levels, International Baccalaureate, or BTECs. For further information on overall entry requirements please see [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/ugstudy/articles/applying/entry-requirements.html](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/ugstudy/articles/applying/entry-requirements.html) or visit individual course pages for specific details.

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

## Contact information

If you have any questions about applying to the University of Nottingham as an RO participant, please email [realising-opportunities@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:realising-opportunities@nottingham.ac.uk)





## Admissions

Queen Mary value your achievements as a participant of the Realising Opportunities (RO) programme and as such, your application will receive additional consideration when you apply. This includes consideration for an enhanced contextual offer. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

## Alternative offers

In recognition of the RO programme, many courses at Queen Mary give alternative offers which can be up to three A-level grades below the standard offer. If you apply and are a participant of the RO programme, you will receive a dual offer that contains both a standard Queen Mary offer and an alternative offer with lower entry requirements. You will qualify for a lower offer if you successfully complete the RO programme.

Review the Queen Mary **contextual admissions webpage** and **Course Finder** for full details of RO offers.

## Course exemptions

Alternative RO offers will not be made for:

- BSc Oral Health (A910).
- Degrees with Integrated Foundation Years and standalone foundation programmes.
- Degree Apprenticeship programmes.

## Extra support available

### Medicine (A100) and Dentistry (A200)

Additional consideration, including selection for interview and alternative offers, is given to RO students applying for Medicine (A100) and Dentistry (A200). For full details, please view the course pages via the Queen Mary Course Finder.

### Additional support

RO participants considering applying to Queen Mary are encouraged to attend applying and personal statement sessions available on [qmul.ac.uk/outreach/students/webinars-and-student-panels](https://qmul.ac.uk/outreach/students/webinars-and-student-panels)

## Further information

Full details about the enhanced contextual offer available to RO participants are available via the Queen Mary Course Finder: [qmul.ac.uk/courses](https://qmul.ac.uk/courses)

For the most up-to-date information on contextual admissions at Queen Mary, please visit [qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/entry/contextualised-admissions](https://qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/entry/contextualised-admissions).

## Contact information

Please direct your queries to [realisingopportunities@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:realisingopportunities@qmul.ac.uk), where a member of the team will be happy to help you.



## Admissions

At the University of Sheffield, most undergraduate courses give alternative RO offers that are typically:

- A two A-Level grade reduction and up to a three-grade reduction for some courses
- Up to five International Baccalaureate Diploma points reduction for most Undergraduate courses (overall Diploma score and not individual Standard or Higher-Level Certificate scores)
- Up to one full BTEC National Diploma grade reduction for most Undergraduate courses

## Course exemptions

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

## Extra support available

All Realising Opportunities students in Year 13 will be invited to access a bespoke university transition support package consisting of both online and on-campus events to support their journey into higher education.

## Further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses). Remember that it is important to check the individual requirements for any courses you are interested in and understand what this means for you.

## Contact information

For any application queries please contact [rosheffield@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:rosheffield@sheffield.ac.uk) or telephone on 0114 222 1027.



## Admissions

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

RO applicants need to meet all UCL admissions criteria and will be required to take part in any standard selection processes for the programme applied for, such as an interview or submission of a portfolio. The 'Next Steps' section on the [UCL prospectus](#) page for a programme includes further guidance on the selection process for that course.

UCL's contextual offers are typically 2 A-level grades (or equivalent) lower than the standard offer but please check the contextual offer information for the programme you are applying for in the [UCL prospectus](#).

RO participants who are selected for an offer and are also eligible for the Access UCL contextual offer scheme will receive a contextual offer. Other RO participants who are selected for an offer will receive a dual offer including an alternative RO offer requiring successful completion of RO, and a standard offer.

## Course exemptions

There are no course exemptions. Where an offer is made, and an applicant is eligible, contextual offers will be given for all degree courses at UCL.

## Extra support available

UCL's entry requirements for each programme can be found in their [undergraduate prospectus](#).

Step-by-step guidance about applying to UCL and making your UCAS application can be found on UCL's [How to Apply](#) and [UCAS explained](#) pages.

RO students may wish to apply for UCL's [range of free widening participation activities](#) for young people in Years 12 and 13. These typically include summer schools, Masterclasses and information, advice and guidance sessions on topics such as writing a personal statement.

[UCL Study Prep](#) is free online course for students in Year 13 who are preparing to study at university.

## Further information

Students considering an application to UCL may find it useful to read information about [wellbeing](#), [funding](#) and [careers](#) support available to UCL students, or attend a [UCL Open Day](#).

## Contact information

The UCL RO Team can be contacted by email at [srs.realisingopportunities@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:srs.realisingopportunities@ucl.ac.uk).





## Admissions

At the University of Warwick, alternative offers will be up to 2 A level grades or up to 4 International Baccalaureate points lower than the standard offer for entry to that course or the removal of an additional requirement (e.g. the STEP requirement for Mathematics).

There are two types of offer you may receive.

### a) Contextual Offer

Applicants must only meet one of the following contextual 'flags' to be considered for a contextual offer:

**Area-based flag:** you live in a neighbourhood which has a low progression rate to higher education or an area which has a high level of financial, social or economic deprivation.

**School flag:** you attend or have attended a school/college performing below the national average **and** eligibility for free school meals was higher than average.

### b) Dual Offer

This means that, in addition to the standard offer (which will be in accordance with published entry criteria) you will also receive an alternative offer which will come into effect as long as you complete the RO programme.

## Course exemptions

There are no course exemptions. Where an offer is made, alternative offers will be given for all degree courses at Warwick.

## Extra support available

All RO Applicants who successfully complete the RO Programme will be invited to join the **Warwick Scholars Undergraduate Programme** when coming to study at Warwick.

## Further information

Whilst it is important that you meet the admissions criteria for your chosen course (these are available via **the University's prospectus**), some courses at Warwick are particularly competitive, with often many more applicants predicted to meet the entry requirements than places available. Where this occurs, the personal statement may be used in selection, alongside predicted, and achieved academic qualifications including GCSEs; although more weight is given to the qualifications, the personal statement may be a deciding factor where large numbers of applicants share the same academic profile.

The University of Warwick advises 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.

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 more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit the **Study At Warwick** pages.

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

## Contact information

If you have any questions, please get in contact with Danny Shaikh-Syed by emailing **ROWarwick@warwick.ac.uk**



## Admissions

The University of York recognises and values students who complete Realising Opportunities and apply to study at the University. If you are given an offer to study at York, then you will receive a dual offer - one alternative RO offer recognising your successful completion of RO with grade reduction and you will also receive a standard offer.

Typically, alternative RO offers are up to three A level grades lower than the standard offer.

The standard offer element of the dual offer may also be reduced if students are eligible for the University's **contextual offer scheme**, or are taking part in the **York Access Scheme**. These schemes can enable students to receive up to a two-grade discount, which would replace the standard offer element of a dual offer.

## 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.

## Extra support available

Students who complete Realising Opportunities can also be eligible for a fast track to interview for the Hull York Medical School programmes if they achieve a UCAT score in the 4th decile or above and meet other essential criteria.

Realising Opportunities students will also be able to access additional support such as the **Step Ahead induction programme**, for students who progress onto studying at York.

## Further information

<https://www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/entry/alternative-offers/>

<https://www.hyms.ac.uk/medicine/entry-requirements/entry-requirements-medicine>

## Contact information

If you have any questions, please get in contact with the University of York RO Team by emailing **[realising-opportunities@york.ac.uk](mailto:realising-opportunities@york.ac.uk)**

# FAQS

## What if I haven't passed RO yet?

When you record your participation in RO on your UCAS form (see page 5 of this guide), any RO Partner universities you apply to will know that you are an RO student. Many alternative RO offers will include the condition that you complete RO – but you don't need to have completed RO at the point you apply through UCAS. 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 on Results Day. Therefore you just need to complete the programme elements by the deadlines communicated to you, rather than before you apply through UCAS.

## 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 from groups underrepresented in higher education. 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 and additional consideration.

## What other support do Partner universities offer RO students?

RO Partner universities offer a variety of support to help RO students when applying to and preparing for university and also when you start university. Read the statements of the universities you are interested in to learn more about the support available.

## Clearing

Alternative RO offers are not applicable in Clearing but Clearing offers can vary from standard offers and could be lower than a standard offer. Remember however that not all courses will be available in Clearing.

**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**

# 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 please 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](https://realisingopportunities.ac.uk/KeyContacts.pdf)





## REALISING OPPORTUNITIES

Working Together | Supporting Talent

 **Newcastle University**

 **UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

**Lancaster University** 

 **UNIVERSITY of York**

 **UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL**

 **University of Sheffield**

 **University of Nottingham**  
U.K. CHINA | MALAYSIA

 **Loughborough University**

 **UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM**

 **UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER**

 **WARWICK**  
U.K. | FRANCE | JAPAN | U.S. | AUSTRALIA

 **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

**f** RealisingOpportunities

**t** @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**

**University of Sheffield**

**UCL**

**University of Warwick**

**University of York**