



VIRTUAL NATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE 2024

Online, Saturday 9 March 2024
10am - 3pm

**REALISING
OPPORTUNITIES**
Working Together | Supporting Talent

Welcome



I'm Suzanne Cholerton, the Chair of Realising Opportunities (RO). I work with staff at the RO Partner universities to ensure that the programme provides you with an excellent experience.

I would like to welcome you to the programme. I know that being part of the RO programme and community will be both exciting and valuable to you.

The virtual National Student Conference (NSC) schedule is designed to give you useful information and a range of perspectives to help you in your journey to making informed decisions about your future. Throughout your time on RO and at the NSC you will have access to our fourteen RO Partner universities which work together to deliver a programme which helps you identify your strengths and explore your interests. The NSC is a key way you can access all of the RO Partner universities and I encourage you to make the most of the event, as well as all the other fantastic experiences which are part of the RO programme.

I wish you every success on the RO programme.

Emerita Professor Suzanne Cholerton
Chair of RO

What is the Realising Opportunities (RO) National Student Conference (NSC)?

The NSC is one highlight on the RO programme. At the virtual NSC you will:



Meet other students taking part in RO via the secure online events platform. You can also chat to student ambassadors from the RO Partner universities.



Learn more about different university journeys, and experiences by hearing from current students at RO Partner universities!



Access all the RO Partner universities at the University Exhibition where you can get information about the universities and the courses they offer (more information on the exhibition is on page 4).



Receive information about careers from well-known employer organisations at the Career Exhibition.



Understand what it's like to be a student at university, the importance of student finance, or the overall application process by taking part in your choice of live sessions

These experiences will be useful on the RO programme and beyond.

NSC schedule

Saturday 9 March 2024, 10am - 3pm

10.00 - 10.10	Join event and watch welcome video
10.10 - 10.55	My RIU Experience sessions 1a. Life and Health Sciences 1b. Creative Arts and Humanities
11.00 - 11.45	My RIU Experience sessions 2a. Engineering and Physical Sciences 2b. Social Sciences
11.45 – 12.00	Short refreshment break
12:00 - 13:00	University and Career Exhibitions open
13:00 - 14:00	Afternoon sessions 3a. Student life at RIUs 3b. Student finance 3c. Applying to university
14.00 - 15.00	University and Career Exhibitions reopen

Throughout the day the Help Desk is open to answer any queries about the NSC, or the RO programme.

From **10am to 1pm** and **2-3pm** student ambassadors from the RO Partner universities will be available in the Social Space to chat, answer questions on student life or play some ice breaker games if you need energising.

Your invite

The RO Central Team will communicate with you via email ahead of the event about how to join the Virtual NSC.



Attendance requirements

The NSC is a compulsory element of the RO programme because it provides you with lots of useful information. If you cannot attend the virtual event, you should let the RO Central Team know in advance.

In order to be considered as having fully attended the Virtual NSC, students need to at least:

- Attend at least one My Research session (there are 4 to choose from)
- And attend one of the afternoon sessions (there are 3 to choose from).

To make the most out of the NSC, attending as many sessions as possible is worth it. This includes heading over to our University and Career Exhibition booths to ask any questions you may have about these areas. The online platform records student attendance at the different sessions to support the recording of overall NSC attendance.



Breakdown of sessions

My RIU Experience

Researchers and students from RO Partner universities will give an insight into what they study and the steps they took on their journey to get where they are. They will also talk about their experience at a research intensive university (RIU). On the day, you can choose which research stream session interests you the most:

- 1a. Life and Health Sciences
- 1b. Creative Arts and Humanities
- 2a. Engineering and Physical Sciences
- 2b. Social Sciences

The research subject areas covered within the My Research sessions might be unfamiliar to you - but the researchers know this and tailor the sessions with this in mind. **[Read more about choosing a session here.](#)**

Afternoon sessions

Hear from staff across the RO Partner universities on topics requested by RO students!

Choose the live session which is most helpful for you:

- 3a. Student life at RIUs - think societies, sports, hobbies and more!
- 3b. Student finance - what is it, who needs it and how do you apply?
- 3c. Applying to university – choosing a university, course and making an application via UCAS.

You will be able to contribute to the live sessions through text-based chat - you won't be expected to be on camera.

The exhibitions

All RO Partner universities will have a virtual booth at the University Exhibition, and staff will be on hand to answer your queries. You can also browse useful information like online prospectuses. The exhibition is a great opportunity to explore what the RO Partner universities have to offer, and we recommend thinking of some questions to ask in advance.

You may have the opportunity in the future to attend UCAS fairs or other higher education exhibitions, so the NSC is a good opportunity to experience a fair and practise asking questions.

Employer organisations will be at the Career Exhibition to provide information about different careers and answer your questions.

You will ask questions in the exhibition through text-based live chat - you won't be on camera.

Tips for the exhibitions

- Remember no question is too small.
- Why not visit the booth for the university you know least about? The University Exhibition is a chance to explore the RO Partner universities!
- Browsing the Career Exhibition booths will help you to think about your career ambitions. Thinking about your career will help you to make informed choices about your future.

Questions for the University Exhibition

What would you like to know more about?

Ask questions to find the answers!

Relevant questions could be:

- What kind of courses do you offer?
- How will RO help my application?
- What are your entry requirements?

Don't worry, if you still have questions after the exhibition, there are lots of ways to find the answers.

You will be able to see the answers to questions other students are asking, so take a look at all the helpful information being provided.



REALISING OPPORTUNITIES

Working Together | Supporting Talent

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