

Improving access for the most able but least likely

The Realising Opportunities (RO) Partnership

Realising Opportunities (RO) is a unique collaboration of 14 leading universities who have made a long-term commitment to, and demonstrated impact in, widening participation, fair access and social mobility. RO supports progression, for the most able 16–18-year-olds from underrepresented groups to research intensive universities (RIUs) via a single, national, supported entry route.



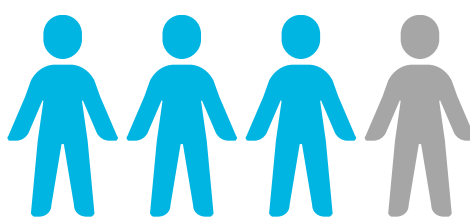
Independent evaluation of RO, conducted by the Institute for Employment Studies (IES), in August 2022 revealed:

11,000+

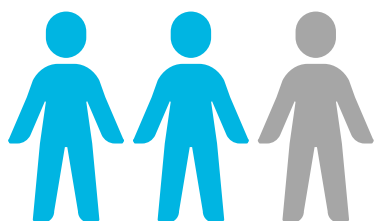
The number of students from across England who have participated in the RO programme since it began in 2009



93% of Cohort 12 (2020-22) participants applied to university at the end of Year 13, more than double the overall proportion of 18-year-olds applying to university that year



76% of Cohort 10 (2018-20) students entered HE at their first opportunity, compared with 38% of state-funded school pupils in England



66% of Cohort 10 (2018-20) participants who completed the RO programme attend an RIU, a figure which has increased from just under half over the past two cohorts

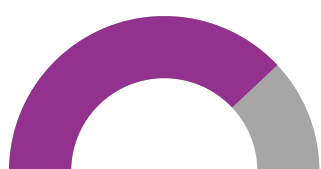


93% of the most recent RO participants to have graduated from university obtained a 1st or 2:1 degree, above the overall proportion of 82% of all graduating students, including those from the most advantaged backgrounds

Participation in RO increases students' understanding of RIUs and makes them better prepared for university

Participant data from Cohort 13 (RO students 2021-23) shows:

76% have parents with no experience of Higher Education



48% are from POLAR quintiles 1 and 2



36% are in receipt of free school meals



50% are in receipt of discretionary payments from school/college

