THE SKILLS TO SUCCEED

REALISING OPPORTUNITIES
Working Together | Supporting Talent
What is Realising Opportunities (RO)?

RO is a partnership of leading research intensive universities (RIUs) which have been working together for over 10 years to promote fair access and social mobility of students from groups under-represented in higher education. The RO Partner universities work together to deliver a two-year programme to sixth form and college students to help you make informed choices about your future. Since 2010, RO has supported over 10,000 students from over 500 schools and colleges. Check out the quotes below for two former RO students’ perspectives on how the programme helped them.

What is a RIU?

Research intensive universities (RIUs) are universities which have a focus on performing research alongside teaching their students. RIUs seek to address global problems with cutting edge research; they make new discoveries possible, and contribute to increased knowledge for the good of society. As such, teaching is research-led in a vibrant environment which makes for an exceptional student learning experience.
RO HAS MADE ME BECOME A MORE INDEPENDENT LEARNER AND THE EXPERIENCE WAS AMAZING.

Shih hung, former RO student

THE SUPPORT TO APPLY TO UNIVERSITY WAS INVALUABLE AND HELPED DEVELOP MY CONFIDENCE AND KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT UNIVERSITY WOULD BE LIKE.

Alexandra, former RO student

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
Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for a place on the Realising Opportunities programme you must be in Year 12/first year of college. You must also meet the criteria laid out below.

**STEP 1**

You must meet **all 3** of the following criteria*

- **Attend a state-funded school/college which is currently working with an RO Partner university to deliver the RO programme**

- **Have achieved at least five grade A*–B (9–6) at GCSE (or equivalent, eg GNVQ, BTEC certificate); if this does not include English Language and Mathematics you must have achieved at least a grade C (4) in these subjects**

- **Be a Home registered student or expect to be by the time you apply for higher education. If you are not a Home registered student, but are classed as an asylum seeker, please see the RO website for further details***

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*Do you meet all the criteria in **STEP 1**?** If so, move onto **STEP 2**
STEP 2

You must meet at least two of the following criteria:

1. 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. This is defined by home postcode.

2. Come from a home where neither parent attended university in the UK or abroad. (If one or more parent is currently studying their first degree, or graduated from their first degree within the last five years, an application will still be considered).

3. Be in receipt of or entitled to discretionary payments/16-19 bursary/Pupil Premium at school/college.

4. Be in receipt of or entitled to free school meals, or have been entitled to them at a point in the last six years.

5. Be attending or having attended an eligible school/college - at the point in time you apply to the RO programme. Click here to go our website where school/college criteria are explained.

6. Alternatively if you are living in, or have lived in, local authority care or are a young carer then you do not need to meet two of the criteria in step 2.

RO is committed to supporting diverse groups of eligible students who are underrepresented in Higher Education. Therefore, we particularly welcome applications from eligible male students, in order to increase the number participating in the RO programme.

Do you meet at least two criteria from STEP 2? If so, go to page 5 to read about the benefits of the RO programme.

*We recommend checking our website for the full eligibility criteria which contains more information about how students may be eligible, please click here for our website. You can also check the eligibility of your postcode on our website.
Benefits of the programme

Alternative offers
from the RO Partner universities which are typically two grades lower than the standard offer.†

A launch event
with your host university to celebrate your place on the RO programme, get you started, and meet university representatives.

Experiences and support
to help you make an informed choice about higher education and research intensive universities.

A chance to develop your skills
in analysis, critical thinking, evaluation and research through taking the RO Academic Skills Module (ASM).

† The majority of courses at RO Partner universities give alternative offers but there are some exceptions. Students who are successful in gaining a place on RO will be informed of the exceptions when they begin the programme.
Online support through which you can get answers to your questions from both current university students who have been in your shoes and staff from the RO Partner universities.

A virtual National Student Conference where you will get a chance to meet others from across the country taking part in RO and representatives from all of the RO Partner universities.

A wide range of events and activities hosted by the RO Partner universities. Support for travel costs may be available with prior arrangement.

skills4uni An online study skills challenge and multiple choice quiz which will help you develop your planning and independent research skills.

Additional consideration when you make applications to RO Partner universities through UCAS.
Completing the programme

There are three compulsory elements of the programme to successfully complete RO:

- Attend at least two RO events or activities (these can be the Launch and the National Student Conference)
- Pass the skills4uni online multiple choice quiz
- Complete the RO Academic Skills Module (ASM)

To find out how to apply, please click here.

You will receive confirmation of whether you have been successful in gaining a place on RO no later than 7 January 2022.
Contact

The RO Central Team co-ordinates the programme on behalf of the RO Partner universities.

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