

PARENT/CARER



**One programme
14 leading universities
Over 6000 courses**

**REALISING
OPPORTUNITIES**

Working Together | Supporting Talent

Realising Opportunities

Realising Opportunities (RO) is a national programme which for over 10 years has been giving students in Year 12 and the first year of college increased access to some of the country's leading research intensive universities.

RO students will be supported during their studies at school/college with increased information, advice and access to RO Partner universities. They will develop the skills they need to be successful at university and to make informed choices for their future. Since 2010, RO has supported over 11,000 students from over 500 schools and colleges. Read the quotes and click the links in this guide for former RO students' perspectives on how the programme helped them.

Data shows that 88% of the most recent RO students graduating obtained a First Class or Upper Second Class degree, substantially higher than the overall proportion of 79% of all graduating students.

Click [here](#) for Katie's story.

RO universities

All of the RO universities are leading research intensive universities (RIUs). This means they have:

- Leading academics and tutors, who are experts in their field.
- Vibrant learning environments where new discoveries are being made.
- Cutting edge facilities thanks to the investment associated with research.
- Top careers guidance and strong links with business.
- World-renowned reputations which are highly valued by employers.

RO students

Students who are offered a place on the RO programme are the most able students but the least likely to attend a research intensive university. For example, they may: be the first in their family to attend university; come from an area where not many people go on to higher education; or be in receipt of free school meals or discretionary payments at school/college.

Students begin the programme in January of Year 12 and are supported until the end of Year 13. RO students benefit from a whole range of activities designed to develop their skills and better prepare them for university.

[Click here for Mohammed's story.](#)

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

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 their host university to celebrate their place on the RO programme, get them started, and meet university representatives.



Experiences and support

to help them make an informed choice about higher education and research intensive universities.



A chance to develop their skills

in analysis, critical thinking, evaluation and research through taking the 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.



A wide range of events and activities

at the RO Partner universities. Support for travel costs is available for some RO events.



skills4uni

An online study skills challenge and multiple choice quiz which will help them develop their planning and independent research skills.



Online support

through which students can get answers to their questions from both current university students who have been in their shoes and staff from the RO Partner universities.



A virtual National Student Conference

where students have the chance to meet others from across the country taking part in RO and representatives from all of the RO Partner universities.



Additional consideration

when students make applications to RO Partner universities through UCAS.



What support is available?

Support will be available for students:

- From their RO host university
- From the RO Central Team through monthly email updates. Students can also contact the team at any time by email.
- Through the skills4uni online study challenge.
- From current university students who will provide online support throughout the RO programme.
- Through the resources available on our website and social media pages.

THE RO PROGRAMME HAS BEEN A VERY VALUABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR PREPARING ME FOR UNIVERSITY LIFE AND STUDIES. IT ALSO HELPED ME WITH MY STUDIES FOR A LEVELS AT SIXTH FORM.

Dennison, RO student 2020-22

Completing the programme

Students must complete three compulsory elements of the programme to complete RO:

- Attend at least two RO events or activities (these can be the Launch and the National Student Conference) **to explore student life at RIUs.**
- Pass the skills4uni online multiple choice quiz **to develop study skills.**
- Complete the RO Academic Skills Module (ASM) **to increase study skills confidence.**

To find out more about the Realising Opportunities programme and its benefits, please [click here](#) to go to our website.

BEING PART OF REALISING OPPORTUNITIES 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 and now head of Year 12 at a sixth form



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Contact

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

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