

STUDENT



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

**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 underrepresented 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 11,000 students from over 500 schools and colleges. Check out the quotes below for two 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.

**I WOULD RECOMMEND
JOINING BECAUSE
IT WILL HELP YOU
LEARN MORE ABOUT
UNIVERSITY AND
WHAT YOU WANT
TO DO POST-18.**

Ajay, RO student 2021-2023

**THE PROGRAMME WAS
MORE INSIGHTFUL
THAN I COULD HAVE
EVER IMAGINED. THERE
WAS HELP AVAILABLE
FROM START TO FINISH.**

Millie, RO student 2020-2022

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

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for a place on the Realising Opportunities programme you must meet the criteria laid out below.

STEP 1

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

Attend a state-funded school/college which is currently working with an RO Partner university to deliver the RO programme. If you are home schooled you should see the website for further information.



Are studying in Year 12 (or equivalent) in England



Have achieved at least five grade 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 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 or have a temporary status, please see the RO website for further details*

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

STEP 2

The more of the below criteria you meet, the more likely you are to secure a place on the RO programme. Students who meet fewer than two of the Step 2 criteria are unlikely to be offered a place on the programme, with exceptions for some groups of students*, as RO is oversubscribed each year.

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**.

Be in the **first generation** of your family to attend 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).

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

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

Attend or have attended a **school/college performing below the national average** in key areas or where there is higher than the national average number of students eligible for free school meals. Click [here](#) to go our website where school/college criteria are explained.

OR

If you are living in/have lived in **local authority care**, are a **young carer**, or are **estranged/living independently** from your family, we strongly encourage you to apply even if you don't meet other step 2 criteria. This is because your application will be given additional consideration.



If students do not meet prior attainment outlined in step 1 but have experienced a period of disrupted education, their application may still be considered on an individual basis. Please see our website for further information.

You can read about the benefits of the RO programme on page 5

*We recommend [checking our website for the full eligibility criteria](#) which contains more information about how students may be eligible. 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 chance to develop your skills

in analysis, critical thinking, evaluation and research through taking the RO Academic Skills Module (ASM).



Experiences and support

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



A launch event

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





Additional consideration

when you make applications to RO Partner universities through UCAS.

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 is available for some RO events.



skills4uni

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

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) **to explore student life at RIUs.**
- Pass the skills4uni online multiple choice quiz **to develop your study skills.**
- Complete the RO Academic Skills Module (ASM) **to increase your study skills confidence**

There are lots of other optional elements of the RO programme designed to prepare you for student life such as: Live Q&As, an Online Community and support from current uni students.

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 5 January 2024.



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Contact

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

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