

Student FAQs

Cohort 15

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Programme

What does RO closure mean for me as a Cohort 15 student?

The RO programme ended for you in 2025.

If you passed the RO programme, you can apply to RO universities for 2027 entry and receive any alternative offers which you may be eligible for.

You are eligible to receive the RO alternative offer for two years after leaving school or college, which means 2027 entry is the last year of RO recognition.

You can read your [benefits guide](#) for more information about the RO alternative offer and how it is used across the RO universities.

If you're taking a gap year and would like to receive additional support from RO, you can sign up to our [Year Out Mailing list](#). You'll receive quarterly emails from the Central Team covering topics such as student finance, accommodation and more!

How do I know if I have passed the RO programme?

You can check your progress on the RO programme by logging into the RO Student Hub and viewing the Progress Checker. This tells you what you have left to complete on the RO programme. The [Student User Guide](#) explains how to access the Progress Checker in more detail.

We recommend that you access the RO Student Hub **before 23 July 2027**.

If you have any questions about your progress, please contact the RO Central Team at info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk.

How do I find out what cohort I am in?

You are in Cohort 15.

You can also view your cohort by logging into the [RO Student hub](#) where it is displayed on your [RO profile](#).

I'm planning to apply to university for 2027 entry; can I still access the RO alternative (lower) offers?

If you have passed the programme, you will still receive any RO [alternative offers/additional consideration](#) which you are eligible for if you are planning to apply to university by 13 January 2027 for 2027 entry or deferred 2028 entry.

How long can I access RO additional consideration and alternative (lower offers)?

Students who pass the RO programme can access the RO alternative offer for two years after leaving post-16 studies (three years in total).

As you are in Cohort 15, your last year of RO recognition is 2027 entry (two years after leaving post-16 studies). This is explained [on page 8 of your Benefits Guide](#).

Where can I find information about the RO alternative offers and additional consideration?

You can find this information in your [Benefits Guide](#). Each page includes information about offers, requirements and courses which are exempt from the RO alternative offer.

Can I still complete the RO programme if I haven't already?

The RO programme ended for you in 2025, which means you won't be able to pass the programme at this stage. You may still be eligible for additional consideration when applying to the RO Partner universities, but this isn't guaranteed. Please [email the universities](#) directly to check.

Will I still be able to access blogs and resources on the RO website after July 2027?

The RO Website will close at the end of July 2027, which means you won't be able to access any blogs or resources that are hosted on the website. It's a good idea to download any resources to your laptop/computer and take screenshots/copy and paste any blogs that you have found useful and want to refer to.

The RO Central team will collate and share other useful resources and websites that cover topics such as university applications, student life, student finance, and other information to support you throughout the university application process. This will be sent to the email address on your RO hub.

RO Closure

Why is RO closing?

The core aim of the RO programme was to increase the number of students who were most able but least likely to enter research intensive universities. To date, the programme has been highly successful in its core aim, with over 85% of RO students progressing to higher education. Having succeeded in meeting the core aim, the Partnership feel now is the right time to bring the programme to a close.

The decision to close RO has not been taken lightly, and the RO Partner universities remain committed to supporting underrepresented students in accessing higher education. To find out more about the activities and programmes aimed at helping students access and succeed at university, please visit the RO Partner university websites.

How many students has RO supported?

RO has supported 17 cohorts of students since 2009, which is more than 16,400 students!

Are there any opportunities for me to be involved in the closure and legacy of RO?

As part of the RO Legacy project, which will showcase the success of RO, the RO Central Team may ask students to share a short reflection on their experience of the RO programme and the impact it has had on them. If you're interested in becoming involved, please get in touch with the RO Central Team at info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk.

Contact

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

For any questions about the programme, RO closure or anything else, please contact the RO Central Team at info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk.

If you have any questions about university offers, courses or events that you have attended, please contact that [RO Partner university](#) specifically.

Who should I contact after July 2027 when the RO mailbox closes?

Please contact the [RO Partner universities directly](#).