

Student FAQs

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Programme

What does RO closure mean for me as a Cohort 17 student?

You are currently on the RO programme until December 2026.

- 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 the UCAS deadline of 13 January 2027 for 2027 entry or deferred 2028 entry.
- If you haven't passed the RO programme yet:
 - You are in the last RO cohort. This means you must complete all elements of RO by the deadlines set in order to pass. You won't be able to retake RO, even if you retake Year 12/first year of college.
- You will continue to receive monthly updates from the RO Central Team after December 2026. This support will aim to help in your transition from Year 13 to university and cover topics such as the UCAS deadlines, accommodation, student finance, and more!

It's important to remember that your hard work and achievements on the RO programme are still highly valued by universities and will continue to be recognised.

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 17.

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).

If you are planning to apply for university for 2028 or 2029 entry, we will be in touch with further information.

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?

Yes, there is still time for you to complete the RO programme.

To complete RO, you must:

- Complete the [Skills4Uni](#) module and quiz by **30 November 2026**.
- Make sure your [two RO events](#) have been recorded on the RO hub by the **end of November 2026**.
- Have attended the **ASM event and completed the reflective piece**. Students who still need to do this have been contacted with information about the ASM catch-up session taking place in October 2026.

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](#).