

**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 10,000 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

**IT'S VERY USEFUL AND I WOULD RECOMMEND IT TO EVERYONE.**

Zeshan, RO student 2021-2023

**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. If you are home schooled you should see the website for further information.



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

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.

OR

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



If students do not meet the prior attainment outlined in step 1 or at least two of the criteria outlined in step 2, 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.

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

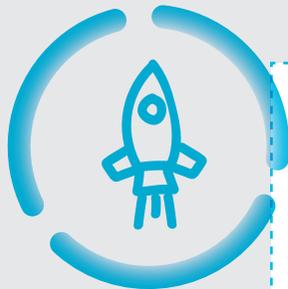


**Alternative offers** from the RO Partner universities which are typically two grades lower than the standard offer.†



**A 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 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.

# 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 6 January 2023.



## REALISING OPPORTUNITIES

Working Together | Supporting Talent



## Contact

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

[info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk](mailto:info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk)  
[www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk](http://www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk)

 [realising\\_opportunities](https://www.instagram.com/realising_opportunities)  
 [@RealisingOpps](https://twitter.com/RealisingOpps)  
 [RealisingOpportunities](https://www.facebook.com/RealisingOpportunities)