REALISING OPPORTUNITIES
Working Together | Supporting Talent
Realising Opportunities

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University of Birmingham
University of Exeter
Goldsmiths, University of London
King’s College London
Lancaster University
University of Leeds
University of Leicester
University of Liverpool
Loughborough University
Newcastle University
Queen Mary University of London
University of Sheffield
University of Sussex
UCL
University of Warwick
University of York
Realising Opportunities overview

• National programme

• HEFCE funded pilot 2009 – 2012

• Funded by Partners

• One common programme

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University of Liverpool
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University of Sheffield
University of Sussex
UCL
University of Warwick
University of York
Research intensive universities

The RO Partner universities are all RIUs which 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 investment associated with research
- Top careers guidance and strong links with business
- World-renowned reputations which are highly valued by employers
Programme and the benefits

Benefits of the programme

- **Alternative offers**
  from the RO Partner universities which can be up to two grades lower than the typical offer.

- **A local launch event**
  at their host university to celebrate their place on the RO programme, get them started, and meet university representatives.

- **A chance to develop their skills**
  in analysis, critical thinking, evaluation and research through taking the RO Academic element.

- **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.

- **Experiences and support**
  to help them make an informed choice about higher education and research intensive universities.

- **skills4uni**
  An online study skills challenge and multiple choice quiz which will help them develop their planning and independent research skills.

- **Additional consideration**
  when students make an application to an RO Partner universities through UCAS.

- **A wide range of events and activities**
  at the RO Partner universities.

- **A 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.
Eligibility

Students must meet ALL of the following criteria:

• Attend a state-funded school/college which is currently working with an RO university to deliver the RO programme

• Have achieved at least 5 A* to B or 9 – 6 grades at GCSE (or equivalent, e.g. GNVQ, BTEC Certificate); if this does not include including English Language and Maths students must have achieved at least a grade C (4) in these subjects

• Be a Home/EU registered student
Eligibility

They must also meet AT LEAST TWO of the following criteria:

• Live in a 'low participation' neighbourhood. This is defined by the student’s home postcode. You can check the postcode on our website at www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk

• Come from a home where neither parent attended university in the UK or abroad

• Be in receipt of, or entitled to, discretionary payments/16-19 bursary at school/college or

• Be in receipt of, or entitled to, free school meals.

Continued...
Eligibility

- Be attending or have attended a school/college:
  - that is performing below the national average for 5+ A*-C/9-4 or equivalents including 9-4 in both English and Mathematics or below the national average Attainment 8 score per school or
  - which is performing below the national average at key stage 5, or
  - where there is higher than the national average number of students eligible for free school meals
  - At the point in time the student applies to the RO programme.

Or alternatively meet the following:

Anyone with experience of the care system, who is a young carer, or who has experienced or has the potential to experience circumstances which could lead to a period of disrupted education, may not be required to meet all of the other criteria and their application will be considered on an individual basis.
Impact

RO evaluation framework designed to:

• Understand/ensure benefits to students through assessing changes in student attitudes, awareness and knowledge.

• Evidence the impact of the programme through progression to Research Intensive Universities.
Impact highlights

- Over 7,000 “most able, least likely” students have taken part in RO so far.
Impact

Students who took part in RO reported:

- That participation in RO increased how prepared they were for higher education especially:
  - feeling more prepared for university life in general
  - meeting new people
  - managing finances
  - living away from home
  - getting used to a new place of study

- That the RO programme had a significant positive impact on their awareness of a range of university and career factors, particularly regarding how to apply to university, and the best universities for the subjects that students were interested in

- That they were happy with the offers they received through UCAS

- That they enjoyed their university experience

- They were more likely to feel they knew what to do to achieving their career goals and were confident of achieving those goals after participation on the programme
IT’S AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY AND OFFERS A RANGE OF DIFFERENT WORKSHOPS TO HELP IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS.

Danielle, RO student 2015-2017

YOU GET TO MEET GREAT PEOPLE AND VISIT AMAZING UNIVERSITIES.

Lewis, RO student 2015-2017
Any questions?
Contact

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

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