

Eligibility Criteria

The aim of the Realising Opportunities programme is to promote fair access and social mobility to assist young people from under-represented groups to gain access to some of the country's leading research intensive universities. To do this, we specifically target Year 12 students who meet the following individual and school/college criteria.

To participate in the Realising Opportunities programme you must:

Meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Have achieved at least 8 A*- C grades at GCSE (or equivalent, e.g. GNVQ, BTEC Certificate) including English Language and Mathematics with a minimum of 5 GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*/A or B **and**
- Come from a home where neither parent attended university in the UK or abroad or have lived in or be living in local authority care **and**
- Be a Home/EU registered student.

And meet **at least one** of the following criteria**:

- Live in a 'low participation' neighbourhood. This is defined by your home postcode. You can check your postcode by emailing info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk or calling 0191 222 8923 **or**
- Be in receipt of, or entitled to, discretionary payments at school/college **or**
- Be in receipt of, or entitled to, free school meals.

I feel as though I am more prepared for university, less scared and feel more motivated. I have also been exposed to lots of different top universities.

Realising Opportunities student

Have attended, or be attending, a targeted school/college that meets **at least one** of the following criteria:

- Is performing below the national average for 5 A*- C at GCSE (including English and Mathematics), **or**
- Is performing below the national average at key stage 5, **or**
- Has higher than the national average number of students eligible for free school meals, **or**
- Has greater than 60% of students from the first 13,000 super output areas within the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

**Extenuating circumstances

If you do not meet all of these criteria but have experienced difficult family or individual circumstances that you or your school or college believe may affect your performance in exams or the likelihood of going to university, your application may still be considered on an individual basis. Please discuss this with your teacher/tutor and ensure that they include some brief details in Section 5 of the application form.

If you'd like to apply for a place on Realising Opportunities:

- Speak to the teacher/tutor who gave you this leaflet, or email info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk or call 0191 222 8923 if you are unsure of your eligibility.
- Obtain an application form and questionnaire from your teacher/tutor.
- Complete the application form and questionnaire, asking your parent(s)/carer(s) to complete Section 4. If you are living independently, please indicate this in Section 4 and ask your teacher/tutor to countersign.
- Return the questionnaire to your teacher/tutor and ask them to complete Section 5 and then to return both to the address on the front of the application form.

You will receive information regarding if you have been successful in gaining a place on Realising Opportunities by 20 December 2011.

Realising Opportunities -
supporting progression
to leading universities.

Student Information
www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk



REALISING OPPORTUNITIES
Working Together | Supporting Talent



Realising Opportunities

Realising Opportunities will give you support during your post-16 studies to develop your skills to be successful at university. You will:

- Increase your knowledge about research intensive universities and what they can offer you.
- Have increased access to the 12 Realising Opportunities partner universities – all leading research intensive universities.

Which universities are involved?

University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Essex
University of Exeter
King's College London
University of Leeds
University of Leicester
University of Liverpool
University of Manchester
Newcastle University
University of Warwick
University of York

For students who successfully complete Realising Opportunities

- **10 out of the 12** partner universities will potentially give an **alternative Realising Opportunities offer** for successful applications to them through UCAS. This is worth up to two A Level grades, 40 UCAS points or four international baccalaureate points.*
- All Realising Opportunities universities will give additional consideration to an application to them through UCAS.*

**Further information about which courses at which partner universities will give additional recognition or alternative offers will be given to students when they are accepted onto Realising Opportunities.*

It has encouraged me to apply for a research intensive university. I would not have done so if it wasn't for this programme!

Realising Opportunities student



Taking part in Realising Opportunities will give you access to:

- **Experiences and support** to help you make an **informed choice** about higher education and research intensive universities.
- A chance to **develop your skills** in analysis, critical thinking and evaluation, along with research experience through taking either the Extended Project Qualification or Academic Assignment.
- **A dedicated ementor** – a current undergraduate student at one of the Realising Opportunities partner universities – who will guide you through an interactive support programme. You'll also have full use of our ementoring portal, with a Knowledge Bank packed full of useful resources!
- **A National Student Conference**, where you'll get chance to meet students from across the country taking part in Realising Opportunities as well as all the partner universities and your ementor.
- A wide range of **events and activities** at the 12 Realising Opportunities partner universities. Support for travel costs may be available with prior arrangement.
- Skills4uni, an **online study skills module** which will help you develop your planning and independent research skills.

To successfully complete Realising Opportunities you must:

- Gain a pass in the Academic Assignment, or gain at least a grade C in the Extended Project Qualification.
- Gain a pass of at least 75% in the skills4uni online study skills module.
- Attend the National Student Conference and at least one other event or activity at a partner university.
- Complete the ementoring programme.

To find out more about the Realising Opportunities Programme, the 12 partner universities and the benefits of taking part, please visit www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk

My ementor is someone almost guaranteed to understand what I am going through and someone who can give me real advice from a place of experience.

Realising Opportunities student

