



# RECOGNITION GUIDE 2022 ENTRY

**REALISING  
OPPORTUNITIES**  
Working Together | Supporting Talent



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# Welcome

We hope you enjoy taking part in Realising Opportunities (RO). The programme is a chance for you to develop skills that will be beneficial during your current studies and at university.

For your commitment to the RO programme you will benefit by receiving additional consideration from the RO Partner universities when you apply to them through UCAS. You could also receive alternative RO offers which are typically two A level grades (or equivalent) lower than the standard offer.

However, it is important to note that recognition can vary at the RO Partner universities and there are some course exemptions. You should read each of the university statements on the following pages so you can understand what this means for you.

Because of the number of RO Partner universities, this guide contains a lot of information – but you don't need to feel overwhelmed. The RO Recognition Guide will remain on the RO website throughout your time on RO, so it's there whenever you want to look at it.

“Getting an alternative offer would remove some of the stress I was already feeling; it helped me to relax and focus on the necessary (revising and getting good grades) instead of panicking about whether or not I will be granted a place.”

RO student 2018-2020



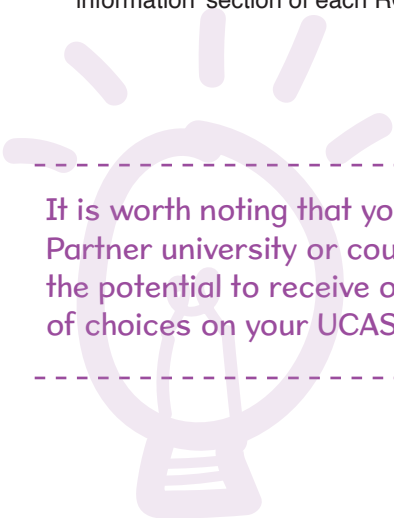


# Getting recognition from RO

## Partner universities

You will benefit from using this guide at different points on your journey to university. We recommend checking this guide at the following times:

- **When you are researching the courses you might like to apply to**, check the Partner university pages to see what type of recognition you could receive. For some courses it is not possible to gain an alternative RO offer. Where relevant these are referred to in the 'Course exemptions' section of each Partner university recognition statement within this guide.
- **You could use this guide to discuss your university choices** with your parents/ carers or teachers at school/ college, so they understand the options available to you and are able to support you with this information in mind.
- **When applying to RO Partner universities through UCAS** using the online Apply system you should identify yourself as an RO student. Guidance on how to do this will be emailed to you in summer 2021. Please look out for this communication and if you have any questions when you come to submit your application then please contact [info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk](mailto:info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk)
- **When a RO Partner university makes you an offer**, check this guide alongside details of the standard offer to see if you have received the offer you expected.
- **If you have a query about a course or offer**, you can refer to the 'For further information' section of each RO Partner university's recognition statement.



It is worth noting that you are not limited to applying to one RO Partner university or course. You can apply to, and have the potential to receive offers from, the maximum number of choices on your UCAS application (which is usually five).

# RO offers explained

## Dual offers

When alternative RO offers are given, this will be in the form of a dual offer which will include the standard offer and the alternative RO offer. Alternative RO offers are dependent upon the successful completion of the RO programme. Alternative RO offers are typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer. For example, this means a standard offer of AAB could be reduced by 2 grades to ABC or BBB. If the example standard offer of AAB was reduced by one grade, this could be ABB.

## Other admissions criteria

Your offers will be dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria such as GCSE requirements, predicted grades, subject specific requirements, work experience, interview performance or portfolio submission. You should check the relevant university's online prospectus to understand these course requirements for any university and/or course you may be interested in.



## Passing the RO programme

If you receive an alternative RO offer from an RO Partner university it will be dependent on your successful completion of the RO programme. In order to pass the RO programme you must:

- Attend at least 2 events or activities run by a RO Partner university (this usually is the Local Launch and National Student Conference).
- Complete and pass the skills4uni challenge and quiz.
- Complete the Academic Skills Module.



The RO Central Team will communicate your successful completion of the RO programme to the RO Partner universities. Make sure you check the conditions of any offers you receive carefully. If you have any questions about your progress on the RO programme please contact [info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk](mailto:info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk)

# FAQs

## What if I haven't passed RO yet?

As long as you record your participation in RO on your UCAS form (see page 4 of this guide), the RO Partner universities will know that you are a RO student. If, when you apply, you still have aspects of the programme to complete, any alternative offers you are made will be subject to your successful completion of the programme. The RO Central Team update the RO Partner universities on your RO progress before results day. Any universities you are holding offers with will have access to your grades. This means they will be able to confirm whether you have passed the programme and met the terms of your alternative RO offer.

## What if I want to take a gap year?

You may be looking to go to university straight after completing your post 16-studies or you may be interested in taking time out before starting university. RO students that successfully complete the RO programme can access the associated recognition for up to two years after leaving post-16 studies. An example is if you left post-16 studies in 2022, you would be eligible for RO recognition for 2023 and 2024 entry to university. If you have any queries about this then please contact [info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk](mailto:info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk)

## Why do Partner universities give alternative offers?

RO Partner universities are committed to widening access to university, and Realising Opportunities supports RO Partner universities to reach more young people. In completing the compulsory elements of the RO programme, students gain skills, experience and knowledge to help them succeed at university and beyond. RO Partner universities recognise this effort and commitment with their alternative offers.





## Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Birmingham through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria which can include subject-specific requirements such as interview performance, aptitude tests and GCSE grades.

## Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower or
- Up to 2 International Baccalaureate points in Higher Level subjects or
- 1 full BTEC National Diploma grade or
- A reduced number of distinctions required for an Access to HE course

## Medicine and Dentistry

The standard offer for Medicine and Dentistry is AAA. The typical RO alternative offer is ABB (including Chemistry and Biology, minimum predicted grades BBB) plus successful completion of RO. Students need to have a minimum of seven GCSEs at grade 4 or above. The following subjects must all be at grade 5 minimum and any two must

be at grade 7 minimum: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Chemistry and Biology (or double Science). Students will also be required to sit the UCAT aptitude test.

## Course exemptions

Alternative RO offers will be made for all degree courses at the University of Birmingham where an offer is made. Alternative offers will not be made on Foundation Year programmes.

## For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk). Remember that it is important that you check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.





## Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Exeter through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

## Alternative offers

If you receive an offer from the University of Exeter it will be an RO dual offer which will consist of the following:

- A standard offer for the course to which you are applying.
- An alternative RO offer of typically 2 A level grades or equivalent lower than the standard offer, valid only upon successful completion of the RO programme.

Offers will be made subject to applicants fulfilling any subject specific entry requirements and completing any required admissions tests or interviews.

## Course exemptions

There are no course exemptions. Alternative RO offers will be made for all degree courses at the University of Exeter where an offer is made.

## For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit [www.exeter.ac.uk](http://www.exeter.ac.uk) or email Hayley Stentiford at [realisingopportunities@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:realisingopportunities@exeter.ac.uk). Remember that it is important that you check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.



## Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to King's College London through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

## Alternative offers

If you are given an offer, then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer, as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower or
- Up to 2 International Baccalaureate points in Higher Level subjects, or
- 1 full BTEC/CTEC National Diploma grade, or
- Up to 2 Scottish Advanced Highers/Highers grades, or
- Up to 2 Cambridge PreU principal subjects, or
- A reduced number of distinctions required for an Access to HE course.

## Course exemptions

Alternative offers will not be made for:

- A100, Medicine
- A205, Dentistry

## Other information

However, all RO students are eligible for the Extended Medical Degree Programme (A101), which has a lower grade requirement than Medicine A100.

The Enhanced Support Dentistry Programme (A206) is open to any RO students attending a state school in Greater London, and has a lower grade requirement than Dentistry A205.

## For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply>. Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.



## Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to Lancaster University through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria, for example:

- subject specific grade requirements
- interview and portfolio performance
- aptitude test
- GCSE grades

## Alternative offers

If you are given an offer from Lancaster University it will be dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades or equivalent lower than the standard offer
- Up to 1 full BTEC National Extended Diploma grade

We may specify minimum grades in particular subjects depending on the course entry requirements.

Alternative offers for other, equivalent level 3 qualifications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Details on the qualifications accepted at Lancaster can be found on our website: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/entry-requirements/undergraduate-qualifications/>

## Course exemptions

Alternative offers will not be made for the following courses:

A104 Medicine with a Gateway Year MBChB  
N2R4 International Business Management (Spain)

## Medicine & Surgery (A100)

Students will need to have achieved at least grade 6 at GCSE in English language, Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics (or, Core and Additional Science). Offers for Medicine & Surgery (A100) are subject to completing the supplementary information form and supplying appropriate documentary evidence that you meet specific eligibility criteria. For more information please visit: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lms/medicine/mbchb-medicine-and-surgery/entry-requirements/#d.en.409326>.

## Other information

Some courses require an additional selection process such as an interview, a submission of a portfolio, or aptitude test. For those courses RO applicants will still be required to take part in this before any offer is made.

For certain courses, the offer will be subject to the RO student studying specific subjects and achieving specific grades in those subjects.

## For further information

For more information on the range of courses, available and typical entry requirements please visit: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/](https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/).

Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you. For further information about Lancaster University and our RO offer, please contact [outreach@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@lancaster.ac.uk)





## Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Leeds through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

## Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer or
- Up to 1 full BTEC National Diploma grade below the standard offer or
- Where possible for other qualifications, the UCAS tariff point equivalent of the above reductions below the standard offer.

## Course exemptions

Alternative offers will not be made for courses including a foundation year. Alternative RO offers will be made for undergraduate degree programmes at the University of Leeds where a standard offer is made.

## Other information

RO students who study at the University of Leeds are eligible for additional on-course support through The Plus Programme. This support includes academic skills development, social activities and careers guidance.

## For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit **[www.leeds.ac.uk/courses](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/courses)**. Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.





## Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Leicester through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

## Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower than our standard offer or
- Up to 2 International Baccalaureate points below our standard offer or
- 1 full BTEC National Diploma grade below our standard offer or
- A reduced number of distinctions required for an Access to HE course.

## Other recognition

RO students applying for our A100 Medicine course (5 year MBChB) who

are predicted ABB or above in the required subjects at A-level, meet our minimum GCSE requirements and have a UCAT score in the top 8 deciles, with an SJT score in bands 1-3, will be fast-tracked to interview. If successful following interview, RO students will be given a dual offer of AAA at A-level or ABB with successful completion of RO. For a full overview of the admissions criteria and selection procedures please visit our website at: <https://le.ac.uk/medicine/study>

## Course exemptions

Alternative offers will not be made for our A199 Medicine with a Foundation Year course, or any of our STEM 'with Foundation Year' programmes (F991/G991/H991/F992/F993/G992/F994/F995).

## For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and our typical entry requirements please visit [www.le.ac.uk/study](http://www.le.ac.uk/study). Remember that it is important that you check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.



## Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Liverpool through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria, for example, interview performance, subject-specific requirements and GCSE grades.

## Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer or
- For students taking the International Baccalaureate (IB) – up to 2 IB points. Students must also successfully pass the IB Diploma as a whole.
- For students taking a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma - up to 1 grade. For example, where the standard offer is DDD the student must achieve DDM overall\*

\*Note: not all programmes accept applications from candidates offering BTEC qualifications.

Please see individual course entries in our online prospectus at [www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses)

## Other recognition

RO students applying to Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science at the University of Liverpool may not be required to meet the strict GCSE entry requirements outlined in the University's guidelines. Applicants should check the GCSE requirements with the relevant department.

## Course exemptions

There are no course exemptions. Alternative RO offers will be made for all degree courses at the University of Liverpool.

## For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit [www.liverpool.ac.uk](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk). Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.



## Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to Loughborough University through UCAS.

## Alternative offers

If you are successful in being made an offer for your chosen course, then you will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer (subject to you successfully completing RO) of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer or
- Up to 2 International Baccalaureate points in Higher Level subjects or
- 1 full BTEC National Diploma grade or
- A reduced number of distinctions required for an Access to HE course.

Please note that specific grades in certain subjects will still be required for some courses.

## Course exemptions

Courses which include a Foundation Year are not in a position to make alternative offers.

## Other information

All offers and alternative offers are subject to applicants fulfilling any subject specific entry requirements at A level or equivalent and minimum GCSE or equivalent requirements. For some courses, offers are subject to a successful interview and/or review of a portfolio.

### For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit [www.lboro.ac.uk/study/](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/study/).

Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you. If you are unclear on any requirements, then please contact [admissions@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@lboro.ac.uk).





## Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to Newcastle University through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

## Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades (or equivalent) lower than the standard offer for all courses at Newcastle University.

## Course exemptions

There are no course exemptions. Alternative RO offers will be made for all degree programmes at Newcastle University where an offer is made.

## Other information

For courses that require an additional selection process, such as an interview or submission of a portfolio, RO applicants will still be required to take part in this before any offer is made.

## For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit **[www.ncl.ac.uk](http://www.ncl.ac.uk)**. Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.





Image supplied courtesy of the University of Nottingham ©

## Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Nottingham through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

## Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer which is typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer.

## Course exemptions

Alternative offers will not be made for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or foundation courses.

## Other information

For 2022 entry, the University of Nottingham will provide a contextual offer of 2 A level grades for Realising Opportunities students. If our standard offer includes a specific subject grade, this will generally remain. For example, if the standard offer is AAA with an A in maths, the contextual offer would be ABB with an A in maths.

Some courses include an interview or test as part of the entry requirements. You will need to pass this before we can make you an alternative offer.

### For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/courses/a-zsearch.aspx>.

Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.

# Queen Mary University of London



## Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the Queen Mary University of London through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

## Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer or
- Up to 2 International Baccalaureate points in Higher Level subjects

We may specify minimum grades in particular A level or Higher Level subjects depending on the course entry requirements.

Combinations of BTEC and A Level qualifications may not be eligible for the alternative offer, please contact [realisingopportunities@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:realisingopportunities@qmul.ac.uk) before you apply to discuss your qualifications.

## Course exemptions

BSc Oral Health (A910) is not eligible for an alternative offer.

Degrees with Integrated Foundation Years and standalone foundation programmes are not eligible for an alternative offer.

Law (M100) and joint programmes involving Law

The offer for RO students applying for our single honours and joint honours programmes involving Law will be AAA. Our standard offer for single honours Law (M100) is A\*AA.

## Medicine (A100) and Dentistry (A200)

All RO students who meet the minimum GCSE entry requirements, are predicted to achieve AAA in relevant A level subjects and attain a minimum 3rd decile score in the UCAT will automatically be selected for interview. If offered a place, RO students will receive an AAA offer, rather than the standard A\*AA offer. There are a smaller number of ring-fenced places (Medicine only) for which RO students who meet minimum GCSE entry requirements, are predicted to achieve AAB and attain a minimum 4th decile score in the UCAT will also be invited for interview. If offered one of these ring-fenced places, RO students will receive an AAB offer, rather than the standard A\*AA offer.

## For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit [www.qmul.ac.uk](http://www.qmul.ac.uk). Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.



## Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Sheffield through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

## Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer or
- Up to 2 International Baccalaureate Diploma points (*overall Diploma score and not individual Standard or Higher Level Certificate scores*) or
- Up to 1 full BTEC National Diploma grade below the standard requirements for your course.
- We may also make alternative offers requiring a reduced number of Distinctions in Access to HE Diploma where the Diploma is taken in a relevant subject and students are still able to present 45 Level 3 credits overall.

## Course exemptions

Alternative offers will not be made for Science and Engineering courses with a Foundation Year or for any of our Foundation Years offered by the Department for Lifelong Learning.

## Other information

For courses that require an additional selection process, such as an interview, pre-entry test or submission of a portfolio, RO applicants will still be required to take part in this before any offer is made.

### For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses). Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.





## Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to UCL through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

## Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer.

## Course exemptions

Alternative offers will not be made for:

- Greek and English BA
- Latin and English BA
- French and Spanish BA

## Other information

For programmes that require an additional selection process, such as an interview or submission of a portfolio, RO applicants will still be required to take part in this before any offer is made.

## For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please Visit: [www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/undergraduate/degrees](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/undergraduate/degrees). Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.





## Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of Warwick through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

## Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically 2 A level grades lower than the standard offer or
- Up to 4 International Baccalaureate points lower than the standard offer for entry to that course.

## Course exemptions

There are no course exemptions. Alternative RO offers will be made for all degree courses at the University of Warwick where an offer is made.

## Other information

Whilst it is important that you meet the admissions criteria for your chosen course (these are available via the **University's prospectus**), Warwick pays particular attention to an applicant's **personal statement** in the admissions process. It is therefore advisable that your statement draws upon your experience on the RO programme, what you have learnt on the programme and how this applies to your chosen course.

By completing the Realising Opportunities programme, you will automatically be considered for our **Warwick Scholars Undergraduate Programme** when coming to study at Warwick.

## For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit our **Study At Warwick** pages. Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.



University of York/Alex Holland

## Additional consideration

Your application as an RO student will receive additional consideration when you apply to the University of York through UCAS. This is dependent on you meeting all other admissions criteria.

## Alternative offers

If you are given an offer then you will receive a dual offer recognising your successful completion of RO. You will receive a standard offer as well as an alternative RO offer of:

- Typically up to 3 A level grades lower or
- Up to 2 International Baccalaureate points in Higher Level subjects or
- 1 full BTEC National Diploma grade or
- A reduced number of distinctions required for an Access to HE course.

## Course exemptions

Alternative offers will not be made for the A101 Medicine with a Gateway Year at Hull York Medical School. Furthermore, the A100 Medicine course at Hull York Medical School has an alternative offer of up to two A Level grades lower.

## Other information

For courses that require an additional selection process, such as an interview or submission of a portfolio, RO applicants will still be required to take part in this before any offer is made.

### For further information

For more information on the range of courses available and typical entry requirements please visit [www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/](http://www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/). Remember that it is important for you to check the individual requirements for the course you are interested in and what this means for you.



## Key contacts

The RO Central Team, based at Newcastle University, lead the programme on behalf of the RO Partner universities.

### RO Partner universities

Each of the RO Partner universities has dedicated members of staff working on the RO programme. If you have questions about the programme don't hesitate to get in touch with the RO Central Team or the RO contact at your host university.

### Contact list

You can find an up-to-date list of contacts at

[realisingopportunities.ac.uk/KeyContacts.pdf](https://realisingopportunities.ac.uk/KeyContacts.pdf)





**REALISING  
OPPORTUNITIES**  
Working Together | Supporting Talent

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**University of Birmingham**

**University of Exeter**

**King's College London**

**Lancaster University**

**University of Leeds**

**University of Leicester**

**University of Liverpool**

**Loughborough University**

**Newcastle University**

**University of Nottingham**

**Queen Mary University  
of London**

**University of Sheffield**

**UCL**

**University of Warwick**

**University of York**