

# INTRODUCTION TO THE RUSSELL GROUP – WEBINAR

4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

## Note

RG refers to Russell Group

The people below, who were at the webinar, are staff representatives of RG universities

## Ben Moore (Policy Manager for the RG)

The RG are research-intensive universities – with the ability to head world leading research – they produce 2/3 of the research produced across the world. They are also known for their extensive and close links with employers.

They can offer the best facilities for research - £2 billion has been invested into libraries, accommodation, research labs and more

There are 2.5 million students at UK universities and ¼ of these are at RG universities

4/5 doctors and dentists have gone to a RG university

1/3 of engineers have attended a RG university

½ of those studying languages and history have attended a RG university

Over 60% who have studied Geography have attended a RG university

1/3 students at RG universities are international students – so across all the RG universities, it is a very diverse community

The student experience includes smaller class sizes than non-RG universities – 12 students per 1 teaching staff for the RG as opposed to 17 students per 1 teaching staff for non-RG universities

The student experience can be a “happier” one – according to The National Student Survey, 80% say they are happy with the teaching at RG universities – higher than those at the non-RG universities

There is less chance of dropping out at a RG university – 2.5% choose not to go beyond Year 1 whereas it is 7% for those at other universities

80% of RG graduates enter high skilled employment within 15 months of graduating – compared to 67% for other universities

International employers value RG degrees and 16/24 of the RG are in the top 100 universities in the world.

## Glenn – University of Bristol

There are a MASSIVE range of courses and a MASSIVE diversity of experiences at RG universities!

Plan for open days – can meet current students which is invaluable – will give you the unvarnished truth!

You will see RG universities in exciting cities as well as there are campuses outside the city centres

You will have an increased chance of being taught by well renowned experts in their field at a RG university – can actually be taught by those who write the textbooks you are reading!

## Vicky – University of York

The RG are known for accepting well qualified and passionate students

At York, they have 22,000 students from over 150 countries – 27% come from outside the UK – can see from this, the diversity and different cultures which all produce a dynamic experience – socially as well as academically

Something for everybody – clubs/societies

Accommodation – wide range including room types

Location /type of university – match to your own personality type

Interviews – not all universities/courses interview (see Applying to RG universities webinar report) – check university websites

Interview formats have changed due to covid – still many are online/virtual/questionnaires sent out in advance

Medicine/law/health-related courses – usually interview applicants

Can be formal or informal interviews – usually November-March time at York

If you get an interview, it is good news – shows you are a promising candidate – remember it is a 2-way street - ask questions

Tips for preparing - 1) research 2) read UCAS Personal Statement 3) have questions ready 4) practice – in front of family and friends – talk about your interests/the subject 5) take notes to interview as a prompt, if necessary

Looking for a well-rounded student – and non-activities important

3 top tips if considering a RG university-

- 1) They can be more competitive so bear that in mind
- 2) Do the research – check course content/modules on offer/academic requirements
- 3) Visit the universities – can be online or physical-led university events
- 4) Experience – read around subject or course you are interested in – work experience, skills, volunteering, MOOC etc

### Matt – Queen's University Belfast

Accessibility – not a case of doing entrance exams/tests as a standard thing – need to check the university websites – will see subjects/grades required

Queen's accept not just A levels but the IB /Scottish Highers/BTECs – not many accept T level, though

Widening participation – various schemes at RG universities – again, check – criteria can include being 1<sup>st</sup> in the family to go to university, household income, school you attend and others

There is pre-university support – most RG universities have this – will differ, though – can offer summer schools which are good – do your research

### Beth – University of Sheffield

Careers support – lots – a lot of firms target RG universities

Will see various events/workshops/advice sessions/mentoring / enterprise activities...advertise part-time jobs and so on

Some universities/careers services will continue to help their graduates for years to come or for 3 years and so on and in the case of Sheffield, it is lifelong support

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