

UK university Open Day checklist

You can travel a long way to an open day. Doing just a little preparation in advance can make your trip more worthwhile, and can make it more likely that you'll end up choosing the best course for you.

WHAT TO DO BEFORE THE VISIT

- Book your Open Day through the university's website.
- If necessary, book your lectures, tour, lunch in the canteen etc.
- Plan your transport.
- Prepare a list of questions. Example questions are given below.
- Research your chosen course. Questions to research before visiting are given below.
- Create a timetable of your day.
- Print off a map of the campus

WHAT TO DO DURING THE VISIT

- Ask the questions you prepared!
- Pick up the contact email of the admissions officer and tour guides to be able to follow up with more questions later.
- Talk to faculty and staff! If you have the opportunity to meet professors that teach the subject you are interested in, ask them questions about your future career path.
- Talk to current students! They will be able to speak openly about the student experience and offer a very different perspective to an admissions officer.
- Check out the university facilities (accommodation, cafeteria, gym, swimming pool, library)
- Walk around the campus to get a feel for the community and atmosphere.
- Explore the surrounding town/city to get a feel for the area.
- Take notes of all your findings to refer back to later.

QUESTIONS TO RESEARCH BEFORE VISITING

- Does the university offer my course?
- What is a typical offer for my course?
- Is there a university campus or are the buildings spread across a town/city?
- Are there any particular subjects that my course requires?
- Does this department require applicants to take an admissions test / sit an interview / provide a portfolio?
- How long is my course?
- How well is this university ranked for my course?
- How far away is this university from my home town?
- Suggested questions for the open day

QUESTIONS FOR ADMISSIONS TUTORS

- What is the university policy on gap years and deferred entry?
- Are any particular subjects or qualifications favoured in applications?
- What do admissions tutors look for in an application?
- What is the percentage of international students? Where does the student population come from?
- What happens to students who don't meet their offer? Are there places in clearing?
- What do admissions tutors think of extracurricular activities on applications?
- Am I at an advantage if I send in my application early?
- Does the university provide any bursaries/scholarships?
- How many students study my course?
- What is the completion rate for my course?
- What are the career options for graduates of my course?

QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS

- Is it expensive to live here?
- How much does accommodation / a night out / travel cost?
- What's the workload like in a typical week?
- How have you found the teaching / facilities / course so far?
- Where do you like to study?
- Do you self-cater or eat at a canteen? How much does that cost?
- Why did you choose to apply to this university?
- How flexible is the course? Are you able to choose modules or change course?
- What extracurricular activities do you do?
- What is it like to live in this area? What is the surrounding community like?
- Is there time to have a job during the term?

QUESTIONS FOR PROFESSORS

- Do lecturers help students outside of class? What opportunities do I have to meet with my lecturers for extra help?
- How many hours of teacher contact time will I receive?
- What is the student to faculty ratio?
- How big are the classes?
- What is it like to teach a lecture hall versus a small class? Do you try and get to know your students in both scenarios? How?
- What percentage of students take part in research?
- How is my subject examined? Coursework or written tests?
- Will I have to complete any group projects as part of my degree?
- What is your favorite thing about this college? Why do you choose to work here?