

Open Days and Interviews

Choices

You will narrow your choices down to 5 UK institutions and then plan to visit all of their Open Days, if this is possible (www.opendays.co.uk).

If it makes sense to visit two universities in one trip but if the Open Days do not coincide make arrangements with one of the universities to visit on a non open day. You will understand that there may not be staff from a particular faculty available to answer your questions but it would give you some feel for the university and save another trip to the same area. If a university is not forthcoming or helpful about making this arrangement with you then you may need to ask yourself if that is the university for you!

At an OPEN DAY make sure you see:

- the department you are interested in
- accommodation
- the Library
- the Students Union
- sports facilities
- the Local Area

Parents - Let your son/daughter ask the questions - it's their day and their first steps in a new adventure.

Don't go to an Open Day just because your friend is going! Make up your own mind on where to visit.

This is a good time to check out how much cost you to travel by public transport to each university - you may need to do this several year if you go there and this may be part of decision making process.

Speak to current students - they will give you an honest view of life at that university.

If you are offered an interview

This is your opportunity to:

- Blow your own trumpet!
- Find out all you need to know
- Be truthful
- Be yourself

If invited for interview ask about the content of the process – you want to know if it is for a day or for a five minute chat!

Interview preparation

Read any information you can that is relevant.
Re-read your personal statement
Be prepared to talk about your current studies
Think about future plans
Be up to date with current issues pertaining to the subject

Success at interview will depend upon:

Research
Realism
Preparation
Planning
Focus

Just remember that interviewers expect you to be nervous

They are not trying to catch you out.

Interviewers are looking for:

Enthusiasm for the subject
Ability to present ideas
Ability to present argument
Evidence of coping with workload
Commitment
Ability

Interview Tips

Everyone gets nervous
Be honest, but positive
Be prepared for likely questions
Be enthusiastic
Prepare some questions to ask
Ask for clarification if you need it
Dress appropriately but comfortably
Arrive early
Give full answers
Take your time
Don't memorise speeches

Good luck!