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## **7 TIPS WHEN CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY**



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## 7 TIPS WHEN CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY

### 1. Research the university thoroughly

It might sound obvious, but make sure you've thoroughly researched the universities that you're applying to to find out everything you can about them. Try to avoid making a snap judgement on a place based on a flashy advert or a glossy prospectus - really get to know the universities and find out everything you can about them before you make a decision.



### 2. Dig deep into the courses

A lot of university courses may look similar on the surface - even having identical names - but there can be a lot of major differences under the surface. Take time to thoroughly research the courses you're interested in on university websites, taking special care to check out all the modules on offer. This will give you a much better idea of what you'll actually be studying on the course, and show you the differences between them.





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### **3. Go and experience it for yourself**

The only way to really experience how a university feels to you is to go and visit. It's absolutely crucial that you go and take a look around a university you're interested in, ideally on an Open Day. Open Days are designed to allow you to see everything you need to make an informed choice, such as the accommodation, teaching spaces, facilities and much more. You'll find yourself much more confident in reaching a decision after you've visited.

### **4. Talk to as many people as you can**

Speak to teaching staff, admissions staff and even current students on the courses that you're interested in, so that you can build up a good picture of what they're like. University Open Days will offer you the perfect opportunity to do this, as there will be many opportunities on the day to speak to staff and students and find out information first-hand. And don't be afraid of asking too many questions!



### **5. Don't obsess over league tables**

League tables can rely heavily on factors such as research output, which don't necessarily directly impact on your university experience. Concentrate more on how the university makes you feel when you go to visit. Also, take on board university student satisfaction scores - after all, how happy the current students are is a great measure of how good a university really is.



## **6. Be organised and meet deadlines**

Make sure you're aware of all of the application deadlines, and that you're prepared well ahead of time to ensure that all aspects of your application are complete. An incomplete application can delay a decision and may reduce your chances of being accepted. You wouldn't want to miss out on your dream course at your dream university just because you'd got the application dates wrong!

## **7. Finally, do what's best for you**

People will give you all sorts of advice and it can get baffling. But make sure, above everything, that you're happy with all your decisions. Ensure that you're applying to a university you actually want to go to, and that you're choosing a course you're really interested in and will enjoy. It might sound obvious, but some people feel pressured into decisions that they aren't 100% happy with. It's your choice - make sure you're happy with it.