

Questions to ask when visiting colleges and sixth forms

Here are some questions you could ask on open days, however you may have some of your own you also want to ask.

Remember you can also talk to any students doing the courses you are interested in, as they will be honest and this may help you to decide.

Possible questions:

1. How will the course be assessed? Exams, coursework or a mixture?
2. How many students will be on the course?
3. What careers have recent students gone on to?
4. Is there opportunity to take a placement? If so, will the college organise this?
5. What sort of student support provision is in place?
6. Do the staff seem knowledgeable and accessible?
7. What sports and enrichment activities are available at college?
8. When will I be interviewed for my course?
9. What grades do I need, will I still get a place if I don't quite get the grades?
10. Which qualifications and combinations of qualifications do they accept/prefer? Do they accept BTEC and GCSEs?
11. Am I able to apply for more than one course?
12. What do they look for in your application and personal statement?
13. Does the college have an application deadline?
14. What will the course will be like when you're there (suggestions from a careers adviser, student or college tutor).
15. What does the course cover?
16. How many hours a week will I be in timetabled teaching?
17. What facilities are there for breaks and lunch?

19. How much flexibility is there?
20. How will the course make you more employable? Do they offer or arrange placements/work experience?
21. Where have previous students gone after finishing?
22. What's on offer here that will provide opportunities for me to develop employability skills? Does the college have connections with local employers?
23. Are there any jobs on the college campus available for students?
24. Are there any volunteering opportunities?
25. What academic support is available?
26. What sports and societies are available?
27. What are the transport links like? Are most things available on the college campus?
28. Will the college timetable allow room for a part time job?
29. What bursaries, scholarships or financial help is available? How do you apply?
30. If I get stuck with an assignment, who can I go to for help?
31. Lots of colleges offer the subject, so why should I choose you?
32. What have the grade results been like for the last 2 years?
33. Do you offer taster days and how many subjects can I sample?
34. What is the process if I pick a course then find it's not for me, what would be my options then?
35. Once I've applied to the college, how long will it be before I get an interview date?
36. If I drive or ride a moped, is there a place to park?
37. Are there any additional costs for my course? For example hair, engineering, catering or construction may require protective equipment or specialist kits.
38. What time does college start each day?
39. Is there access to a careers service?
40. What help is there to get into university, an apprenticeship or work after college?