

53 Questions to Ask when Visiting Colleges

We have listed 53 questions you could be asking on open days/evenings:

KEY- College Qs
Course Qs

1. How will the course be assessed? Exams, coursework, or a mixture?
2. How is the course structured?
3. What does the course cover?
4. How many students will be on the course?
5. What will the course be like when I'm there?
6. How long are the lessons? How long is the college day?
7. Will I have lessons every day?
8. When will I be interviewed for my course?
9. How will the course make me more employable? Do they offer or arrange placements?
10. What have the grade results been like for the last 2 years?
11. What sizes are the classes?
12. What careers or pathways have recent students gone on to?
13. Is there an opportunity to take a placement? If so, will the college organise this?
14. What sort of student support provision is in place?
15. Is there support for mental health and wellbeing?
16. Do the staff seem knowledgeable and accessible?
17. What sports and enrichment activities are available at college?
18. Will the interview be over the phone, in person or through a video platform?
19. What grades do I need – and can I still get a place if I don't quite get the grades?
20. Which qualifications and combinations of qualifications do you accept/prefer? Do you accept Level 1 and 2 technical and vocational qualifications?
21. Am I able to apply for more than one course? How much flexibility is there?
22. How many subjects can I take at college?
23. Lots of colleges offer the subject, so why should I choose you?
24. What do you look for in your application and the personal statement?
25. Does the college have an application deadline?
26. How many hours a week will I be in timetabled teaching?
27. Is attendance of lessons compulsory?
28. What facilities are there for breaks and lunch?
29. What sort of food can I buy and is it expensive?
30. Are there spaces I can use to study or do research when not in class?

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31. What's on offer here that will provide opportunities for me to develop my employability skills?
Are there any connections with local employers?
32. Are there any jobs on the college campus available for students?
33. Are there any volunteering opportunities?
34. What academic support is available?
35. What sports and societies are available?
36. What are the transport links like? Are most things available on the college campus?
37. How can I travel to the college?
38. Will the college timetable allow room for a Part-time job?
39. What bursaries, scholarships or financial help is available? How do you apply?
40. Will there be any financial contributions to the college. Is there support for financial difficulties?
41. If I get stuck with an assignment, who can I go to for help?
42. Will I be able to attend subject lessons, or do you offer taster days?
43. What can I expect from a taster day?
44. What is the process if I pick a course, then find it is not for me – what would be my options?
45. Once I've applied to the college, how long will it be before I get an interview date?
46. If I drive or ride a moped, is there a place to park?
47. Will I need to purchase a parking permit, is there any financial support available?
48. Are there any additional costs for my course? For example, hair, engineering, catering or construction may require protective equipment or specialist kits.
49. Is there any financial help if I can't afford something for my course?
50. Is there access to a careers service?
51. What help is there to get into university or find an apprenticeship?
52. Is there a dress code?
53. Will I need a computer/ laptop?

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