

# Open days checklist

Download and print our checklist to help you plan your time on campus, and ensure you ask, meet, and see everything/everyone you need to.

## Before you go

- Check available open day dates and sign up to attend as soon as you can – places fill up quickly. Tell unis about any disability or specific learning difficulty you have, so they can put all the necessary arrangements in place for you. Unis will encourage you to do this to make sure you have the best possible experience.
- Find out any named contacts (on their websites) for disability support teams, and let them know you're coming and would like to meet them. These are the experts who can help with:
  - access on-site (such as blue badge parking, a sign language interpreter, or audio loops)
  - making an appointment to discuss the support you need while studying, as well as advising on Disabled Students' Allowances and other financial support
  - pre-booking onto a campus/accommodation tour or subject and finance talks
- Download or print a campus map that shows where the most important facilities you'll need are located. Many unis provide accessibility maps, so check their website. If the uni has more than one campus, check which one you need to go to.
- If you intend to use public transport, check where the railway station or bus stop is in relation to the campus – especially if you plan to use public transport during your studies.
- Book accommodation in advance if you'll be staying overnight.
- Prepare questions to take with you – here are some topics to get you started:
  - entry requirements, applications, and interviews
  - support for disabled students on-site
  - disabled student networks or forums at the uni
  - study support and any assistive technology
  - accessibility of buildings
  - accommodation and leisure facilities
  - course content and assessments
  - the Students' Union, clubs, and societies

# On the day

Here are some top tips to make the most of your visit. Take this checklist to the open day with you to make sure you cover all bases.

- Wear something comfortable, and remember you'll be outdoors at some point during your visit.
- Take some paper and a pen to make notes, or record important information on your phone. Take photos to remind you of the uni when making your final choices.
- Lunch and refreshments are usually available to buy on campus, but take a drink or snack to keep your energy levels up and to stay hydrated.
- Visit the academic department you're interested in and meet the tutors – this is a great chance to ask any specific questions face-to-face.
- Look around the accommodation, ask to see adapted rooms (if that's what you'll need), and ask about the chances of securing your first choice room, such as a ground floor, wheelchair-friendly room. If further adaptations are needed, speak to the disability support team.
- If possible, talk to other students with disabilities about their uni experiences. You can probably organise this beforehand through the uni's disability support team.
- Visit the Students' Union and see what they've been involved in over the last couple of years. They're always a great source of information and are not always found in a prospectus.
- If you have time, visit the local town or city to give you a flavour of what life is really like. You'll be living there for the duration of your course, so it's important to get a feel for the place.

