



# Education after Year 11 – choosing and applying

## Deciding where to go

- What kind of place will suit you? Large and busy with students of all ages? One specialising in a few courses? Somewhere which offers you lots of support?
- Visit places and see for yourself, rather than relying on what people may have told you. When you are there, try and talk with current students to get their views.
- You can also read official reviews on individual Schools and Colleges on [www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports). Some of the reports may be a few years old.

## Courses offered

- Check which places offer the courses that interest you. For information on courses in London, see [www.mychoicelondon.co.uk](http://www.mychoicelondon.co.uk).
- Schools and colleges might have a good reputation for certain courses – this could make them very popular.
- Some places may have different entry requirements for the same course.

## Prospectuses and websites

- Colleges and Schools often produce prospectuses which contain information on their courses and describe the facilities. Most Colleges and some Schools also have websites.
- Remember, the aim of a prospectus/website is to 'sell' the place to you. You'll still need to visit a place to see what the atmosphere is like.
- Pick up a prospectus at open days/evenings, order online or ring the School or College.

## Location

- Colleges may have a few sites. Find out where your course is running.
- How long will it take you to get to and from the School or College?
- Does the School or College run its own transport?

## Facilities

- Consider the academic facilities – for instance, see how many computers the library has.
- What kind of sports and social facilities are available?
- Find out about the support on offer, such as whether free counselling is provided, and what teaching support is available if you have a learning disability.

## Open days

- Colleges and Schools usually hold open days/evenings for prospective applicants. The format varies but could include: meeting tutors and current students, being shown around and having the opportunity to pick up prospectuses and course information. Some events take place early in the Autumn term so check as soon as possible.
- Make a list of the questions you want to ask before you attend (e.g. work experience, course assessment methods, facilities).
- If a place is extremely popular, you may need to apply before the open day!

## Application forms

- Fill out the form carefully because this is the first impression a School/College has of you. If any special arrangements need to be made for the interview (such as if you are a wheelchair user), you'll need to let people know in advance.
- It's useful to make a copy of any forms you fill out, especially if you apply to a few places, as you'll be able to refresh your memory before you go for an interview.
- For Colleges or if you're applying to another School, you will need an academic reference. Usually, this must be completed before the form is sent off – allow enough time.

## Interviews

- Possible questions include: Why have you applied for this course? How do you think life here will be different from where you are at present? Why should we offer you a place? What do you do in your spare time? You could also be tested with relevant questions about the subjects you are currently taking.
- Interviewers are looking for honest answers, enthusiasm and ability to take the course.
- Don't forget to make a list of any questions you want to ask.

## When to apply

- Apply as early as you are able because some courses and institutions fill up very quickly.
- Websites and prospectuses sometimes give application closing dates (deadlines) but ring the school or college if you aren't sure.
- Schools and Colleges may have last minute places. Even if a course has started, or you think you are applying late, it's worth asking if there's any room or if you can be put on a waiting list in case someone drops out.

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This information is available in alternative formats, call 020 7938 8080.