

Why Should You Consider an Open House

In the spring and fall, many universities and colleges hold Open House Days, Preview Days, or Campus Tour Days — while the names of the events may vary, the purpose is the same: to highlight their campus!

Here are 5 reasons you should consider attending an Open House:

#1. To get a “feel” for the campus. What looks good on paper may end up not being a “good fit” for you! Attending an Open House allows you to have **an in-depth look at the campus**: tour classrooms, residences, recreational facilities, etc. Generally, these tours are student-led which gives you an opportunity to hear about the campus from a fellow student. The environment you hope to spend the next few years of your life in matters – a lot! My youngest daughter had listed a particular university in her Top 3. However, when she visited it, she found it “cold” and uninviting. She ended up going to a smaller university (which wasn’t even in her Top 3) because when she visited it, she knew almost instantly that this university was the place for her!

#2. To have an opportunity to ask questions. Yes, you can call or email the university to have your questions answered, but most of us aren’t going to do that. At an Open House, you can ask questions of Faculty, Staff and students.

#3. To learn more about a specific program of interest and courses offered. Be sure to attend the academic / departmental information sessions of the program you’re interested in.

#4. To attend general information sessions and presentations held on many pertinent topics: student services (health and wellness, academic support, etc.), university life, career and co-op education, work-study programs, admission requirements, academics, residences, etc.

#5. To find out SPECIFICALLY about entrance scholarships, other scholarships, bursaries, and awards! Attend the Financial Aid presentation or seminars. These are some of the questions you may want to ask:

- **Is financial aid available at your school?**
- **Where can I find out about scholarships and bursaries?**
- **Do I need to apply for them, or are they automatically given out?**
- **How do I find out about part-time jobs on campus?**

If you are unable to attend an Open House, consider booking a tour of the campus at another time. There are universities and colleges that offer virtual (online) tours as well.

***Note: If attending an Open House, be sure to check for registration deadlines. Pre-register and plan your day to get the most out of it! As well, there may be giveaways offered and a chance to enter contests. Some universities even have a draw for free first-year tuition!**