

Year 12

Choosing a University

Wednesday 20th March 2019

1. * Student Ambassador02: Hi, my name is Nik and I am currently in my 2nd year. For those of you who are new to the forums, you are welcome to ask me questions either directly related to the theme or about any other aspect of university life. Anything I can't answer I will refer on and someone from the Exeter Scholars team will get back to you with a response in the next few days. For those of you that have logged on before, welcome back!

Before we start I just want to give you a quick overview of how the session itself works in case you've not used one before.

When you post a message it will be sent to me to reply to and will show on your wall as awaiting reply. When I reply to your message it will then post to the public wall for you and everyone else to see. Until I have replied, no-one else will see your message. Bear with me, as when it gets busy it will take me a few moments to reply – but don't worry, you won't have been forgotten!

* Student Ambassador02: I will start all messages with the name of the person I am replying to just to make the discussion easier to follow and if I'm posing a question to the whole group I'll start the message with 'Everyone'.

* Student Ambassador02: Also answering your questions today is Catherine and they will introduce themselves to you in a moment.

* Student Ambassador02: I forgot to mention earlier that I am studying History!

* Student Ambassador01: My name is Catherine and I study Law with French (2nd year).

2. Benjamin McIntyre: What aspects of university were the most important to you, when choosing universities? For example was it accommodation or student life etc. etc.?

* Student Ambassador02: Benjamin, the aspects of university which were most important for me was the course. I looked at a number of universities offering History courses and chose the one I thought would be the most interesting and the one where I liked the professors the most

* Student Ambassador02: I did think about other aspects of university life - student life was my second biggest worry - but was reassured when I visited Penryn in person on an Open Day

4. meganjacques01: Does the question have to be about university choices or can it be about anything?

* Student Ambassador02: Megan, the topic of today's session is 'choosing a university', so I would prefer to answer questions about that. However, we are happy to answer questions about all aspects of student life!

5. meganjacques01: Okay. Can I just ask how you decided on Exeter University? What's good about Exeter Uni? For example: Do they offer anything that a lot of universities wouldn't.

* Student Ambassador02: Jack and Megan - you have asked me the same question so I'll answer it in one go! I'm studying at the Penryn Campus of Exeter University, and what made my decision for me was my visit on an Open Day. I never looked around the Streatham campus.

* Student Ambassador02: I really liked the atmosphere on this campus. We share it with Falmouth University, who are more of an Arts based university, and the range of students I met on the day was really interesting - even though the Open Day was run by Exeter University. The campus had a friendly, community vibe to it and I found myself chatting with one of my current professors for an hour and it just felt really natural

* Student Ambassador02: So for me it ultimately came down to how I felt being there. I'd looked around other universities and felt largely indifferent, or like a face in the crowd, so didn't really come away leaning one way or another, but that was different here

* Student Ambassador02: I hope that answers your question!

* Student Ambassador02: Has anyone thought about what university they want to attend?

* Student Ambassador02: (You don't have to say Exeter)

7. Jack Reddicliffe: were there any other universities that you applied for and if so how many?

* Student Ambassador02: Jack - I applied for Oxford, Bristol, Durham and UCL. I was closest to going to Durham

* Student Ambassador02: Jack - ...but ultimately chose Exeter

9. meganjacques01: yes thank you :) What's the student accommodation like at the Uni?

* Student Ambassador01: Accommodation at Exeter Uni is very, very good. It varies from self-catered to catered, en suite, shared bathrooms and kitchens etc.

* Student Ambassador01: Personally, I stayed in new Lafrowda which was catered but with en suite. This was great for me as it was very social due to the shared kitchen but I also had my privacy.

10. meganjacques01: I drive at the moment and it's a nightmare at the college to find somewhere cheap to park whilst still being within walking distance, what are the parking facilities like for students?

* Student Ambassador01: in your first year, campus Accommodation is quite limited in terms of parking space so many people I knew did not bother bringing their car; however, in second year when you live out in Exeter many of the houses come with parking spaces

* Student Ambassador02: Open question: is anyone going to a UCAS convention?

11. Benjamin McIntyre: I have already been to the UCAS convention

* Student Ambassador02 (privately): What did you think of it? Was it useful?

* Student Ambassador02 (privately): Can you think of anything that you would like to ask me that you couldn't ask there?

12. meganjacques01: Ohh okay, thank you. That's one of my worries is that if I can't drive into Uni I would have to take buses into Exeter, and as we all know... they aren't very reliable!

* Student Ambassador01 (privately): So the good thing about Exeter Uni is that the campus is so close to town and the train station, and most accommodation. It's rare that anything is more than a 20 minute walk in Exeter.

* Student Ambassador01(privately): I have been at Exeter for almost 2 years now and have never taken a bus! You can literally walk everywhere within 20 mins or so

13. meganjacques01: When are the UCAS conventions?

* Student Ambassador02: Megan - I'm afraid I don't know off the top of my head, but I hope this link is helpful? www.ucas.com/ucas/events-exhibitions

14. Benjamin McIntyre: It was quite useful, but obviously everyone said their Uni was the best. What is it like being at a university without colleges? Would you prefer there to be?

* Student Ambassador02 (privately): Benjamin, I can understand that, I found the same thing when I was looking around.

* Student Ambassador02 (privately): It's why it felt quite impersonal, etc.

* Student Ambassador02 (privately): It's why I think open days are better so I'd definitely recommend going to as many as you can

* Student Ambassador02 (privately): To answer your question - as I mentioned, I looked at Durham. I also have quite a few friends at Oxford and Cambridge. All three are 'college based' universities. To be honest, I didn't really care too much about that when I was applying. I know Oxford and Cambridge *seem* to care more about that sort of thing (that's my personal opinion/experience) but at Durham it just felt like a way of dividing students and didn't make much difference.

* Student Ambassador02 (privately): But I also don't play much sports. I prefer to run and gym in my own time etc. so wouldn't have been competing in any events. So the rivalry seemed fun but ultimately not a huge factor.

* Student Ambassador02 (privately): What I like about a campus based university is that it's open and you can bump into anyone and you have a definite chance of meeting a wider range of people. At Penryn (which is a smaller campus) you do really get to know people quite quickly just from your daily routine etc.

15. meganjacques01: Thank you! You've been a big help :)

* Student Ambassador02: No worries! Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any more questions :)

16. Benjamin McIntyre: Thank you :) What made you choose Exeter over Durham? Any reasons other than course opportunities?

* Student Ambassador02 (privately): A lot of my friends went to Durham and I decided that I didn't want to stay in the same cohort/go where everyone else was going. I really have nothing against Durham at all and have heard great things and did enjoy my visit - it just came down to personal preference for me and wanting that space.

* Student Ambassador02 (privately): What factors are likely to make your decision?

* Student Ambassador02 (privately): Is there any place you're leaning towards?

* Student Ambassador01: I think it's good to have a look at whether you prefer a collegiate system. I have friends at Oxford and Durham and they really enjoy the 'family feel' of college and the ease of cleaners, lunch hall and porters etc. Whereas I would say at Exeter I am a lot more independent.

17. Benjamin McIntyre: Brilliant. Thank you for the help :)

* Student Ambassador02 (privately): No problem, do let us know if there's anything else you're thinking about

* Student Ambassador02: Hi everyone - our session is nearing to a close now. Is there anyone who would like to ask any final questions?

* Student Ambassador02: If not, I hope you've found this informative

* Student Ambassador02: Thanks very much for taking part in today's online forum; I hope you've found it useful! Details of the next session can be found at

www.exeter.ac.uk/exeterscholars/currentparticipants/liveonlineqaforums/. If you have questions in the meantime, please contact the Exeter Scholars team, who will be happy to help:

www.exeter.ac.uk/exeterscholars/contact/currentparticipants/.

18. Benjamin McIntyre: Hopefully I get into Cambridge, because the course options in Mathematics really interest me. Also it's very prestigious for mathematics so the employability afterwards would be amazing. The most important factor for me is the module options.

* Student Ambassador01: That is great that you are focused on the module options as they vary depending on the university and it is such an important factor!

19. Charlotte Smale: How did you decide what universities to go to open days at?

* Student Ambassador01: So I waited for offers from all of the universities and then attended the top 3 that I liked. I made sure they were a mixture of campus and city + closer and further away from home

* Student Ambassador01: This allowed me to experience a bit of everything as universities really do vary

* Student Ambassador01: What universities have you got in mind?

20. Charlotte Smale: Exeter, Bath spa, Bristol, Swansea but I haven't really looked into in too much yet

* Student Ambassador01: Nice options, what I can tell you about Exeter is that it is a great campus university and is unique because it is situated very close to town, train stations and the nightlife. This means that you can walk everywhere (nowhere is more than 20 mins)

* Student Ambassador01: This means you get a real mix of campus and city university life which I really like

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