

## Year 12

### Ask A Student Ambassador

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

1. \* Student Ambassador01: Hi, my name is Miranda and I am currently in my final year studying Law with Spanish. The theme for today's forum is Ask a Student Ambassador. 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.

2. \* Student Ambassador01: 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! 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'.

3. \* Student Ambassador02: Hi everyone, my name is Alice and I'm currently in my third year studying English with Study Abroad. I look forward to answering some of your questions this evening.

4. \* Siobhan Harper: Hi everyone. This is Siobhan from the Exeter Scholars programme. I'm here alongside Miranda and Alice, and I'll be answering general questions about the Exeter Scholars programme, coronavirus updates, and anything else of that nature.

5. \* Siobhan Harper: IF YOU POST A QUESTION IN THE ONLINE FORUM, THEN YOUR PARTICIPATION WILL COUNT AND BE RECORDED – EVEN IF YOU DON'T GET AN ANSWER. WE WILL TRY TO ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS TONIGHT, BUT IF WE'RE NOT ABLE TO DO SO THEN AN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION WILL BE EMAILED TO YOU AS SOON AS WE CAN.

6. charlie clarke: are there any perks you get as student ambassadors?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Charlie - there are lots of benefits to being a student ambassador. For me, having a job which is flexible around your studies is the best part as most other part-time jobs are strict with shifts so it's quite nice to be able to pick and choose when you work. The pay is also really good for part-time work and the number of shifts we can opt for is also really beneficial.

7. Saffron Flint: What advice would you give to finding the university best suited to yourself?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Saffron! Everyone has different priorities when it comes to selecting a university, so I would recommend first that you decide what is most important to you. For some students, it is important to go to an institution that ranks highly in league tables, for others, the priority is a course that is

flexible and interesting, and for others still, the most important factor may be location, extra-curricular activities, or whether a university is campus-based or city-based. These are just a few things that may factor into your decision. Once you decide which of these factors are most important to you (and there are many more; I've only given a few examples), then you can begin searching for an institution that meets your needs.

8. Olivia\_Thomas: What should students look for when looking at accommodation?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Olivia - I would recommend first assessing your price range for what you are willing to pay, then whether you would prefer to cook for yourself or whether you want to be catered. Other factors which differ for each individual include whether you want to live on-campus, nearer the city, if you want specific facilities i.e. a gym or whether you want to be in a shared room. I would recommend looking online at the virtual tours which the university gives on their accommodation pages as these are really useful when trying to imagine what your room will be like.

9. Emily Hatherall: Was it hard adjusting to uni life?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Emily, talking from personal experience, I didn't find it all too difficult adjusting to university life - I've always been quite an independent person, and so I quite enjoyed moving away from home! However, I know that, for some people, adjusting to managing your own time and finances can be difficult. In this case, I would recommend that you either choose a university that is near enough to your home that you can visit regularly, or that you make use of support systems within the university and beyond in order to help you adjust.

10. Amelia Browne: Do you recommend getting a job while studying in order for more financial stability?

\* Student Ambassador01: I think having a job at uni is a really good idea because it gives you something else to focus on beside your studies and means you are rarely in a position to worry about money. It also makes you more accountable for your spending habits which I find the best part. However I didn't get a job until second year because you want to spend your first year adjusting to uni life and studies, and having a job at the same time may be quite a lot to handle. If you think you have the time, you can always get one after you start.

11. Darina Šapela: Hello! Are the courses with more contact hours better? What's your opinion?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Darina, it is my opinion that different people have different working styles; while some students may prefer to have a rigid day-to-day structure in place (i.e. courses with more contact hours), others may prefer having more flexibility in when they choose to do their studies (i.e. courses with fewer contact hours). However, if someone is truly passionate about their subject, I find that they will generally adjust to the contact hours that they are given. Above all, I would focus on choosing a subject that you enjoy, and that will lead into a career you wish to do in the future - I believe that the number of contact hours should be a lesser concern.

12. Ben\_Heyes: Hi everyone. Just wondering how much halls of residence cost, how that might compare to other options, and what your accommodation preference as a student was when you arrived at university?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Ben, the cost of halls of residence varies greatly, dependent on the following variables: which halls of residence you are assigned to; its proximity to campus; whether you opt for an en-suite room or to share a bathroom; whether you are catered or self-catered; and probably many more! I would recommend that you research these prices online. As the prices of renting a landlord-owned property also varies greatly, I am struggling to provide an accurate comparison for you! All I can say is, given the amount of different housing options there are, there should be an option for every budget. Personally, I would recommend living in halls of residence as a first-year student - it's one of the easiest ways to meet new people, and they are often located nearer to the lecture-halls and classrooms.

13. Emma Budge: what is the law to Spanish ratio like?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Emma - So each year I study 90 credits for law and 30 credits for Spanish which are obligatory, so it's a 1/4 to 3/4 sort of ratio. In my final year I don't have to study Spanish and on my year abroad I only studied law modules.

14. Amelia Browne: Do you recommend choosing a course with an industrial placement or year abroad?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Amelia - as I did a year abroad I could not recommend it more. I believe you get more opportunities by being encouraged to break away from the swing of uni life and to try something new such as studying new topics in a different country or getting hands-on practical experience that you may not get without a placement.

15. Shimoli Shah: Why did you choose Exeter?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Shimoli - I chose Exeter because it had really good international connections for my course (Law and Spanish) which other Unis couldn't necessarily promise, and the course also allowed a lot more freedom for module choices in my final year. It also has a really strong reputation for sport which means I can carry on my school sports to a high standard which is really fun. The campus is also right next to the city so you get the best of both worlds in respect to campus community and city life.

16. Casey Phillips: hey, what are student accommodations like at Exeter?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Casey, in terms of student accommodation ('or halls of residence') at Exeter, there are many different options. There are options to be located on-campus, or closer to town; to have an en-suite, or to share a bathroom; to be self-catered, or catered. My experience of living in residence halls was very positive; although I wasn't located on-campus, I found the facilities to be clean and modern, and I made lots of friends (one of whom I am even living with next year, in my 4th year) through choosing this option!

17. Erin Humphris: I am looking at taking a course in the sciences however I am also a very keen sports person. Are the BUCS teams available to all or are they reserved for those taking a Sports Degree?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Erin - BUCS teams are available to everyone! I'm part of Lacrosse and I study law, so anyone can participate in BUCS teams and matches

18. BethHiatt: It's time for year 12s to start thinking about personal statements. Do you have any advice for what to include for a student that doesn't know where to start?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Beth - I think the best advice is to write down in basic words why exactly you want to study your chosen topic: think what motivated you to pick it in the first place - is the content interesting? Have you studied it before? Is it a completely new topic which you think would be fun? Then from this, think of all the research you have done into this topic which influenced your decision to take it further: e.g. have you done work experience? Read any books on the topic? Have you done an EPQ on something similar? Think of your own personal journey to picking the chosen subject and what actions you took which positively informed you to make this choice.

19. Ethan Bingham: Why did you choose Exeter University?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Ethan! For me, the University of Exeter was my firm choice because it ranked well in the league tables for my subject, it offered more flexibility in my course than most universities (i.e. I was able to start selecting what I wanted to study even in first year), and it is located in the south of the country, in a nice area. However, while these factors were important to me, I must stress that everyone has different priorities - that is to say, what was important to me may not be important to everyone.

20. Kenzie-JayneBarker: Hey, would you say studying a year abroad is a good decision?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Kenzie-Jayne, I had an excellent year studying abroad in the United States this year; not only was I able to learn about my degree (English) from an American perspective, but I also had the opportunity to go travelling and truly immerse myself in the culture of my host country. However, I do understand that taking a year abroad isn't for everyone - particularly because it involves adding an extra year into your degree! But, if you're interested in doing a year abroad, and you think that it truly is for you, I would say to go for it!

21. ryan fell: what would you say are the main differences between A-level and university?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Ryan - the main difference for me is the independence given both in work and in life. At A-level, you don't get much of a choice as to what to study, what study choices to make and your education is largely imposed on you through having to do homework and attend classes. At uni, all your work is largely down to your personal motivation which forces you to become a lot more independent than you were at A-level. Having said this, it's actually so refreshing to be able to study what you want and decide that on some days maybe attending a lecture isn't the best option so you watch it an hour later. This freedom is the main difference but also the biggest change to overcome in my opinion.

22. Mia Finch: Hi, I'm really struggling to decide what to study at university. Studying history at Exeter is a possibility but I am really unsure with what to study, do you have any tip? Thanks, Mia

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Mia - I struggled with a similar dilemma when deciding to study Law. I found it best to go into the university website and look at the module content (what exactly I would be studying, the options available for topics, the freedom of module choices) to influence your decision. Universities differ wildly with what they actually teach for each subject so this should be your starting point. If you really like the look of the study plan, and you can see modules which look engaging and that you can see yourself studying, then compare this to other subjects to influence your decision.

23. Ryan Reid: When do you think the Uni will be back open for business? Will it be open by September or later?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Ryan. Thanks for your question! I'm afraid the University is still considering this, and it depends on a number of factors. The University is currently looking at planning a phased reopening of the campuses, but this will take time and depends on government and Public Health England advice. Sorry that we can't give a firm answer at the moment! You can find any updates for prospective students on the University's website: [www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospectivestudents/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospectivestudents/)

24. Rachael Trethewey: Hi will there be any changes to the entrance requirements for years 12 because of the coronavirus or will they remain the same?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Rachael. Thanks for your question! I'm afraid there is no answer to this question quite yet, as the focus at the moment has been on year 13 students and offer-holders who are due to start in September. However, the University is definitely thinking about this and considering carefully what to do for year 12 students who are potentially thinking about starting university next year. You can find more information on the University's web pages about coronavirus: [www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospectivestudents/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospectivestudents/)

25. briony troughton: Can you do masters from undergrad, as in straight from school, or do you need to have done a bachelors first?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Briony, generally you do have to have completed an undergraduate degree in order to progress to a masters; if there are opportunities to go straight into a masters from school, then I certainly have not heard of them, I'm afraid. There are, however, some degrees that will combine an undergraduate and a masters into one course of study - perhaps this is what you were thinking of?

26. Emily Burroughs: What is the difference between a flexible combined honours course and a regular university course?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Emily. Thanks for your question! There are effectively three types of undergraduate degree: single honours (where you study one subject); joint honours (where you study two subjects that

complement each other, e.g. English and Drama); and Flexible Combined Honours (FCH). Doing a FCH degree means that you can mix two subjects that you wouldn't necessarily group together, because you enjoy both! Not every subject can be done as a FCH degree, unfortunately, but there are a lot of them that can be. You can find a full list of them here: [www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/flexible/exeter/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/flexible/exeter/) (you will see that exceptions are indicated). I hope that this makes sense!

27. Mia Finch: Mia Finch: Hi, I'm really struggling to decide what to study at university, studying history at Exeter is a possibility but I am really unsure with what to study, do you have any tips? Thanks, Mia

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Mia, my advice to you is to select a course that is:

- 1.) Something you are genuinely passionate about - three years of study (or more!) is a long time, so do choose something you will enjoy learning about.
- 2.) Something that will lead into a career you wish to do in the future. If you do not know exactly what you want to do in the future, humanities degrees like history (or my degree - English) open up many different doors, and equip you with many different desirable transferable skills. So, perhaps that is something you should also consider: whether a degree has one profession at the end of it (like Medicine, for example), or many different options.

28. Jasmine Birch: Hello, what do you feel the best way is to stay motivated during Covid-19?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Jasmine - I find writing mini to-do lists every morning the best way to actually get stuff done. This way your day has to be structured and you have ongoing goals throughout the week. Making a routine like your school timetable is honestly so useful because it makes you have a bit of self-discipline. I'd include not just school tasks in the to-do list but also things like 'make lunch' or 'go for a run' as everything you tick off gives you a bit of positivity and a sense of achievement.

29. Madison Eathorne: Do you think the entrance grades will be lower due to covid-19?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Madison. Thanks for your question! I'm afraid there is no answer to this question quite yet, as the focus at the moment has been on year 13 students and offer-holders who are due to start in September. However, the University is definitely thinking about this and considering carefully what to do for year 12 students who are potentially thinking about starting university next year. You can find more information on the University's web pages about coronavirus: [www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospectivestudents/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospectivestudents/)

30. Olivia\_Thomas: What choices do students get for study abroad?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Olivia, the following webpage indicates the different partner universities that are available to students at the University of Exeter, to give you a few examples: [www.exeter.ac.uk/studyabroad/outbound/research/where/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/studyabroad/outbound/research/where/).

In terms of other institutions, I'm sure that they will have a similar webpage where you can look up their partner universities worldwide.

31. OlenaMilan: What is the benefit of doing a combined degree?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Olena. Thanks for your question! A combined degree is great if you have two subjects that you want to study and that you can't decide between. There is no particular benefit of a combined degree over a single-subject degree in itself; the difference is whether it's right for you! If you know that you only want to study one subject, then stick with a single-subject degree; if not, then a combined degree might be the one for you! I hope that this helps.

32. darcey greenland: I have several potential course ideas in mind, but I was wondering how did you narrow down to a specific course??

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Darcey, if you have several different course ideas in mind, it means that you must really enjoy your studies - and that's excellent! As I have mentioned on a few replies to previous messages, I would recommend that you select a subject that you enjoy, and that will lead into a career you wish to do in the future. Or - do you think that any of your possible course ideas might fit well together into a combined honours course? I would recommend that you research this possibility, if it is of interest to you.

33. darcey greenland: With the recent events concerning covid19, can we expect any consideration of the lack of face to face school time in the grades??

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Darcey. Thanks for your question! Thanks for your question! I'm afraid there is no answer to this question quite yet, as the focus at the moment has been on year 13 students and offer-holders who are due to start in September. However, the University is definitely thinking about this and considering carefully what to do for year 12 students who are potentially thinking about starting university next year. You can find more information on the University's web pages about coronavirus:  
[www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospectivestudents/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospectivestudents/)

34. Erin Humphris: Does Exeter University consider deferred applications?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Erin. Thanks for your question! Yes, the University of Exeter does consider deferred applications. You can either apply directly for the year following, or you can defer an offer once you have received it. The advantage of deferring an offer is that you will hold that offer regardless of any potential changes that might be made to entry requirements during that year. You can find more information about deferring an offer here: [www.exeter.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/offers/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/offers/)

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Erin. Apologies, I've just noticed I sent you the wrong link! You can find the correct link here: [www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/applying/howtoapply/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/applying/howtoapply/)

35. leahdowrick: I just have a general question about university. I was wondering how you decided what you wanted to do at the end of year 12, or did you always know exactly?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Leah - I picked my subject (law) based on the fact that from studying English, Spanish and Psychology at A-Level, I wanted to study something new but which was fairly similar to my A-

levels. I knew I was good at reading and a fairly fast learner so I looked at History, Law and Liberal Arts. From looking at the course content on the university website, I looked at what course had the most appealing content and structure to make my decision.

36. briony toughton: If you do a subject that's like 'law with Spanish', is there a difference in how long the course is?

\* Student Ambassador01: Yes - instead of studying for 3 years my course is extended to 4 years as I spent a year in Spain studying abroad. So if you were to study Law on its own, it's only 3 years. Law with European Study or international study becomes 4 years to accommodate the year spent abroad.

37. Lucy Hancock: Hello, I was just wondering if you have to have to state you want a deferred offer when you apply to university or can you defer the offer once you have gotten a place? Also I'm not too sure if I should take a gap year, would you recommend it? Thanks!

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Lucy. Thanks for your question! Both of these are an option for you – you can state from the outset that you wish to defer a year, and you can also ask to be deferred later on. The latter option does mean that you need to request to do so, so it might be slightly more complex, but that time to decide could be valuable to you. You can find more information here: [www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/applying/howtoapply/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/applying/howtoapply/), and I would definitely recommend emailing the Admissions team at [ug-ad@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:ug-ad@exeter.ac.uk) if you want to ask any questions about it. In terms of doing a gap year, I'm afraid this is a decision for you to make! It certainly won't negatively affect your application to university, if that's a concern for you, and it can often boost you with a bit more life experience, money, etc., before you actually start degree. I'd say to think carefully about your reasons for taking a gap year, and to try and get a plan together for it if possible, just so you've got some direction and know exactly what you want to do!

38. Gwennie.F: Hi, Is it hard to juggle being a student ambassador and managing studies?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Gwennie - being a student ambassador is very easy to fit around your studies as you have the freedom to choose when you want to work. We get emails notifying us of available shifts, and if we want the work we can select to apply for the job. If you're busy with studies or if you don't want to work, you don't have to as there are no fixed hours.

39. Chloe Hobby: What's it like being a student ambassador? Do you enjoy it? Does it have any benefits?

\* Student Ambassador01: I really like being a student ambassador as there is much more freedom than other part-time jobs in regards to the work we do and when we can work. The main benefit for me is that I could keep the job even though I was going on a year abroad, meaning when I return in my final year I still have a job. The main benefits are working for really good pay, and you always have someone else working with you so the job is never lonely. Also there are lots of opportunities to work and the work always varies.

40. Maddie.Farmer: how do you become a student ambassador?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Maddie. Thanks for your question! If you come to the University of Exeter as a student, then you'll receive an advertisement for Student Ambassador applications. You will have to complete an application form, and, if you pass that stage, you'll be invited to a face-to-face group interview. This normally happens in the December after you start. From the face-to-face group interview, ambassadors are selected. It's a very competitive process, but being an Exeter Scholar does mean that you get additional consideration for your application! If you don't get in in your first year, then you can reapply the following year – so you get more than one shot! If you have any further questions about this, please do let us know at [exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk)

41. Holly Marchington: does being a student ambassador ever interfere with your subject work?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Holly! Personally, one of the things I like most about this role is the flexibility of the work: we are not restricted to certain hours, but rather we are able to apply for jobs that fit around our work schedules. Because of that, I haven't found that the role interferes with my studies!

42. rachelbiggs: what sort of work do you do as a student ambassador?

\* Student Ambassador01: The work really varies between on-campus tasks such as giving tours, helping at open days and assisting the management team with various administrative duties, and off-campus tasks helping in local schools and colleges, delivering presentations and interacting with prospective students. The work differs all through the year which is the best part of the role.

43. Lottie Dadds: What stands out most on a personal statement?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Lottie. Thanks for your question! Personal statements can be really tricky, but there is some guidance that makes them a bit easier! You can make yourself stand out by engaging with the subject you've chosen, and demonstrating clearly why you've chosen that subject and why you should be offered a place to study it. About 70–80% of your personal statement should be directly relevant to your subject. You can then bring in transferable skills that you have that show why you would be a good student in that subject. The Exeter Scholars programme offers a personal statement checking service, so you can send your personal statement to [exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk) and we will check it over for you. We can do this as many times as you like, so you can send us the roughest draft and we'll help you with it! I hope that this helps.

44. Jen Davies: Hi, I was just wondering if there is a lot of support available when it comes to planning your year abroad?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Jen - yes there is so much support right throughout the process. We had regular lectures and meetings with staff to discuss budgeting, the financial help available, what we may find difficult etc. and what to expect. Additionally, the outbound team (our main point of contact when we are on years abroads) are really responsive and quick to reply to any questions we have. There are also a lot of resources available online showing what other students have done e.g. the Exeter abroad Instagram page which is useful for showing what years abroad are like from a student perspective and what you can do.

45. Josh Collett: What is it like going from 3 A-levels down to one very focused study?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Josh, personally, I found the transition extremely rewarding! Throughout all of my school years, I knew that English was my favourite subject - and so, to be able to focus upon this one discipline, and to truly learn about it in-depth, has been an excellent experience. Saying this, in my first and second year, I also took a French module with the Foreign Language Centre - which has allowed me to keep up (and even improve upon!) my A-level French.

46. Angus Hirst: Hi, do you have any tips for writing a personal statement that you found useful?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Angus. Thanks for your question! Personal statements can be really tricky, but there is some guidance that makes them a bit easier! You can make yourself stand out by engaging with the subject you've chosen, and demonstrating clearly why you've chosen that subject and why you should be offered a place to study it. About 70–80% of your personal statement should be directly relevant to your subject. You can then bring in transferable skills that you have that show why you would be a good student in that subject. The Exeter Scholars programme offers a personal statement checking service, so you can send your personal statement to [exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk) and we will check it over for you. We can do this as many times as you like, so you can send us the roughest draft and we'll help you with it! I hope that this helps.

47. emily lentern: what is your least favourite aspect of university life?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Emily - my least favourite aspect is also probably the best part of uni life: the amount of freedom we are given academically and personally. If you don't take responsibility for your studies and if you aren't motivated, (e.g. choosing not to attend lectures or do any of the readings) you can find yourself falling behind and potentially getting yourself into a stressful situation around exams and assignment time. However, there is always help on hand and it's really up to you to reach out to your tutor and say if you are struggling as it is easy to get yourself out of the sticky situation too.

48. Maisey Barrow: What are the benefits of study abroad, and how does it work?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Maisey! I have had an excellent year this year in the United States, so I am always happy to talk about subjects related to study abroad! In terms of the benefits, I would say that for me, they included: being able to learn about my degree from an American perspective, and with an American style of teaching; having the opportunity to travel around the US in the holidays; fully immersing myself in a new culture; and, meeting loads of new friends from all over the world, who I hope to visit one day! Generally, you apply for a study abroad year in your second year, you do the year abroad in your third year, and then you return to your home university for the fourth and final year. At Exeter, students wishing to do a study abroad year rank our top eight choices of partner universities worldwide, and then we are hopefully allocated one from the list. Priority goes to those students who have achieved the best grades in first year.

49. Tilly Brambilla: Would you recommend to study a year abroad /take a course with a sandwich year or would you recommend to just take a full time university course staying at the uni?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Tilly! This will simply depend on what your priorities are. For me, the opportunity to study abroad for a year was an experience I may never have again, and so I decided to go for that option. However, this has extended my degree for an additional year, and so I know that some people would prefer to get their degree finished in three years so they can get out into the world! Study abroad years and years in industry provide students with many skills and experiences that you do not get from a regular degree - but I believe that it will honestly depend on your priorities and personal interests, whether or not you should take one.

50. Ben\_Heyes: Hi everyone. Just wondering how much halls of residence cost, how that might compare to other options, and what your accommodation preference as a student was when you arrived at university?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Ben - for any information about accommodation, you can go to this website to compare prices etc.: [www.exeter.ac.uk/accommodation/students/prospectivestudents/guide/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/accommodation/students/prospectivestudents/guide/)

I wanted to be closer to town rather than on-campus so I didn't go for a conventional choice because I thought being in the city would encourage me to explore more of Exeter itself.

51. LeoHunter: Hello :) What would you say was the hardest part about adapting to student life, such as financing or friendships etc.?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Leo! Learning to manage my own finances was certainly an experience, but luckily one that I actually enjoyed! I would recommend a good finances spreadsheet and perhaps an app to track expenditure. In terms of the hardest part of adjusting to student life, I would say that during the first weeks of first year, I often felt a bit lonely - it was rather odd, not having my family around all the time! However, after I formed some strong friendships, that soon went away and I began to fully enjoy living away from home.

52. Shelvi Shah: How is social life at Exeter University like?

\* Student Ambassador01: Exeter is an incredibly sociable uni: being primarily campus-based there is a large community feel inside the university grounds as all students are associated around similar areas, commuting between lectures, the forum or the gym. We also have lots of opportunities to make friends by being a member of various societies or sports clubs which encourage you to meet different people other than your course friends or flat mates, and most of these societies coordinate nights to go out together and spend time together off-campus. Additionally, most courses have tutorials and seminars so you have ample opportunities to meet people who study the same subjects as you in a more informal way.

53. Sophie Holder: Hi, I don't know if this is a silly question but how does UCAS work? We were supposed to have talks before COVID-19 changed these plans... how easy was it to apply and what tips do you have for writing personal statements?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Sophie. Thanks for your question! It's not a silly question at all – you shouldn't be expected to know about UCAS if you haven't done it before! The UCAS application is all online, and the majority of it is quantitative information, such as your GCSE results, the subjects and qualifications you're taking for sixth-form study, and what subjects you want to study at uni. The only other bit is the personal statement, and that is where you get to actually make an impression and talk about you and your subject interest. You get five choices of degree to put on UCAS, and the same personal statement is sent to all of them. These can be the same subject at different universities, different subjects at the same university, and any combination in between! The Exeter Scholars programme usually runs a UCAS Preparation Day in the summer, and we're currently looking into possible running this online, so we may be able to provide this information to you all online.

\* Siobhan Harper: Personal statements can be really tricky, but there is some guidance that makes them a bit easier! You can make yourself stand out by engaging with the subject you've chosen, and demonstrating clearly why you've chosen that subject and why you should be offered a place to study it. About 70–80% of your personal statement should be directly relevant to your subject. You can then bring in transferable skills that you have that show why you would be a good student in that subject. The Exeter Scholars programme offers a personal statement checking service, so you can send your personal statement to [exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk) and we will check it over for you. We can do this as many times as you like, so you can send us the roughest draft and we'll help you with it! I hope that this helps.

54. Anna Clarke: What do you most enjoy about your degrees?

\* Student Ambassador01: I love the fact that the content of my degree changes each year as different court decisions are made and different laws are enacted. When I first started University, the vote for Brexit had just been decided and I'm seeing the implications of that decision all throughout my work which is really cool as I can draw similarities between current events and how the legal landscape changes in response to this. I also really like how big the law school is, as I've made so many friends through my course.

55. Harry Payton: Hi, I would just like to ask whether catered or non-catered accommodation is the better option when applying for your 1st year. Thanks

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Harry - this is largely down to your personal preference. If you aren't familiar with cooking yourself and think that learning to cook as well as settling into university is quite a large challenge to undertake in your first year, then you may prefer catered. I chose non-catered as I thought it would force me to take a lot more independence with budgeting and cooking your own meals. It was also really good in terms of getting to know my flat mates really well, as we would all sit together in the kitchen every evening while everyone cooked, which was very nice. However I know that in catered you meet with your friends and can sit on tables with other people so you may get to know more people.

56. Coby Williams: How do you apply to become a student ambassador and what is the process like?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Coby! When I applied in my first year, the process involved: an application, a questionnaire, and a group interview. Once I was given the job, there was a good deal of training on how to work the different events that we assist at. This, however, may have changed in more recent years!

57. magda schwarz: what is your favourite thing about Exeter uni?

\* Student Ambassador01: My favourite part is the community atmosphere which I didn't find other universities had. Exeter is campus-based but right next to a city, so the city is always full of people you know and other students during the day and on nights out which is comforting. Also the strong reputation for sport means people are very pro-Exeter and feel very positively about the university so there is a real buzz on campus and positive vibe.

58. Oriana Meneses: any good book recommendations?

\* Student Ambassador01: If you're into non-fiction, 'This is Going to Hurt' by Adam Kay is about diary entries from a junior doctor during his time in a hospital. 'Invisible Women' by Caroline Criado Perez is also a very interesting read.

59. Jacob Power: What was the biggest change going from college to university?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Jacob! Personally, I would say that the biggest change academically was focussing just on one subject. For me, it was a positive change - because I truly am passionate about English, and I enjoy spending all of my studying time working on just this one subject. Another big change, however, was the style of teaching and studying - at university, you generally have a lot fewer contact hours, which means a lot more independent work.

60. Issy Chapman: hi, how did you become a student ambassador and would you recommend it?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Issy! I just answered the first part of your question in a different reply, but I shall answer the second part here. Personally, I do really enjoy this role: I enjoy the variety of the work, the flexibility of the hours, and, as I am truly passionate about my course and university in general, I really do enjoy talking to people about these subjects! I would recommend it to people who have similar interests, and who have skill sets that match the requirements of the work.

61. Rudy Walsh: Hey, thank you for doing this. How expensive is rent in the Exeter area, and is it difficult for a student to find a job there?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Rudy! Generally, rent in Exeter does end up being a little more expensive than in other areas of the country - but this is the same for everyone, not just students! There are, however, many different options when it comes to living arrangements, many of which I have detailed in my responses to previous questions, which should provide an option for every budget. In my experience, there are a wide

range of jobs available in Exeter - both on-campus, and in the local area. If at all possible, I would recommend trying to get one of the on-campus jobs, as these are typically more flexible with hours and more understanding of the fact that a student's studies should be their priority.

62. Tegan Thomas: Hi Miranda. It's interesting to see that you're studying law and a foreign language. I'm considering Law or Psychology with French. How do you manage to balance studying the two subjects? Does one impact the other? Thanks!

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Tegan, it's great to hear that you want to study a language alongside Psychology - I couldn't recommend it enough. I don't find one impacts the other at all and I actually find it quite refreshing to have a break from law during the week when I attend my Spanish classes. The course is usually 3/4 Law (so psychology in your case) and 1/4 Spanish, and the timetable easily accommodates this so you never have any overlap of classes or exams. I study Spanish as a break from studying law, meaning the two subjects really complement each other when it comes to revision.

63. Lucy Watton: Why did you choose Exeter uni?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Lucy - I chose Exeter because it was very high in the league tables for my subject (law) as well as having a really good reputation for sport. It was also campus but with close links to the city so you get the best of both worlds in regards to campus-community and city life.

64. Ellie King: Hi, thank you for answering all the questions! I'm planning on taking a law degree and I wanted to know whether you had any law related tips for the application process/things that you wish you'd done in advance, (e.g. over the summer in year 12, personal statements etc.)?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Ellie - it's great to hear you want to study Law! I think the best thing to do in year 12 is to get as much exposure to the subject as possible, be it through work experience or through online courses, reading around the subject and talking to other law students. This will inform you a lot as to what you will actually be studying and will be really useful to put into your personal statement as to your motivations for applying. The most important thing to remember when applying is that you are applying to study the subject, and not to become a lawyer. Think of why you find the course content interesting, not just why you think it is a useful degree to study.

65. connor.philp: Hello, when you study abroad for a year as part of a course does this cost much extra?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Connor! A traditional BA English degree takes 3 years to complete; my degree - BA English with Study Abroad - takes 4 years. Generally, this is the case: a study abroad year will add an extra year into your course's duration, and you will therefore incur the cost of one extra year of study. One positive aspect, however, is that you are not required to pay the full tuition fee for the year you are abroad. There are also certain grants and bursaries for study abroad students. However, on the other hand, I found that there were additional costs of studying abroad, such as travel costs (which may or may not be covered by a travel grant), medical costs, and visa costs. I hope this answers your question!

66. Hovin Assad: Do you as a student ambassador feel like ever you have too much work in your hands to accomplish?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Hovin! As student ambassadors, our hours are very flexible: if we have a busy week with our studies, we can choose to do a very limited amount of student ambassador work (or none at all) that week - and vice versa. I think that it is all about managing your time well - so long as a student has good time-management skills, then I think that it is perfectly reasonable to complete all their assignments to a high standard, while being involved in part-time work or extra-curricular activities.

67. Luiseach Gillespie: Have you got any suggestions for how to keep yourself motivated with work during lockdown?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Luiseach - I would recommend writing daily to-do lists or timetables allocating hours of the day to various tasks so you keep a sense of self-discipline. It also means you keep on track of what tasks you have to do and complete by the end of the week.

68. Jamie Barnes: would you recommend doing a year in industry with your degree?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Jamie - doing a year in industry is really beneficial for gaining hands-on practical knowledge of a field of work which you wouldn't necessarily get from academics alone. Getting work experience is also very useful when applying for jobs after university and can put you in a really advantageous position.

69. Lowena Dunstan: How did you decide on what subject to study as I am unsure?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Lowena - I was torn between Law, History and Liberal Arts when applying. I found it best to go into the university website and explore the course content for each subject and decide which sounded the most interesting and which subject I would enjoy the most. I also looked at how the subjects were assessed and the contact hours to see which was most like my learning style.

70. Davina Ganatra: How many libraries are there on campus and are there specific libraries for different departments?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Davina, there is one main library and an old library, but there are study spaces located all across the university and most of the library resources are available online through the iExeter platform. There are no specific libraries but each department is located in a different part of the library, with its own section.

71. Emma Coumbe: Hello, it is quite expensive to go to university. How would you recommend keeping on top of university fees?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Emma! Firstly, I would recommend that you research the student loans provided by Student Finance England, which generally can cover all of a student's tuition fees, as well as providing a

means-tested maintenance loan for help with costs such as rent, food, and textbooks. I would recommend using a spreadsheet to chart all your various sources of income and expenditure, and an app to track your expenditure, so that you know exactly how much you can afford to spend each week. It is also possible to work a part-time job alongside your studies, if this is something that is of interest to you!

72. OlenaMilan: I guess it is dependent on course but how do you juggle work to leisure time?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Olena, you are correct that this will differ dependent on which course a student chooses, and how many contact hours this course requires! Personally, I study a course with very few contact hours, and so I am forced to motivate myself to work independently most of the time. To combat this, I generally try to stay in the on-campus library for most of the day, where I am generally most productive. As I am less productive in the evenings, I do my best to take this time off, for leisure time, events, and society commitments. This, however, may well change as I enter my final year, and inevitably have to put more time into my degree.

73. Chloe Somerwill 2: Hi, did you struggle to fit in and make new friends when starting university?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Chloe - making friends at University is very easy because everyone is in the same position, coming to a brand new environment and most people don't know anyone before they arrive, so people are very friendly and welcoming. Making friends is very easy because there are lots of societies and sports clubs which you can join to meet new people, and most subjects run welcome meetings giving you the opportunity to meet people from your course. Freshers' Week is full of events for people to attend and get to know one another.

74. siobhansmith: How do you decide which course to choose/decide which is best for you?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Siobhan - I looked online on the university website at the course content for subjects which I was interested in (at the time this was History, Law and Liberal Arts). From there, I assessed what content I found the most interesting and what I would be most motivated to study over the next few years. I informed my decision by getting work experience and reading online articles related to the subject which I also found interesting.

75. Shimoli Shah: Do students get to choose between the Exeter campus and the Penryn campus for their course?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Shimoli. Thanks for your question! Yes, you are able to choose between the campuses for your degree course. To use BA English as an example, you will see that the Exeter and Penryn degree courses have separate UCAS codes, and these UCAS codes are how you indicate which campus you would like to study at: [www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/english/english/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/english/english/) (Exeter) and [www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/english/baenglish/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/english/baenglish/) (Penryn). I hope that this makes sense!

76. Grace: (Grace Averre) - Hi, I was wondering how different the step up is from college to uni compared to GCSEs to A Levels?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Grace! I find that it is less a 'step up' in terms of the difficulty of study, and more of a change in focus - instead of adhering to strict exam guidelines, there is more of an expectation that you will read widely, come up with your own ideas, and write more in-depth material. This, naturally, entails a 'step up' in difficulty, and in the amount of time that one must put into their studies - but for me, it was truly enjoyable to have more freedom with my course!

77. Alice Barriball: What are the societies there like? Which ones do you recommend?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Alice! At the University of Exeter, we have over 250 different societies and groups to get involved with, all of which focus on different things. There are many different sports societies, allowing students to play against other universities, or very casually, dependent on their desire and standard of ability. There is usually a society for each course, which are often a good way to meet people and to socialise with people who study the same subject as you. Other than that, our societies are truly very varied, and I am sure that there is something for every interest.

78. Ben\_Heyes: Hi everyone. Just wondering how much halls of residence cost, how that might compare to other options, and what your accommodation preference as a student was when you arrived at university?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Ben - information about costs and details can be found on this website: [www.exeter.ac.uk/accommodation/students/prospectivestudents/guide/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/accommodation/students/prospectivestudents/guide/)

I preferred to be nearer the city rather than on-campus and I also wanted to be self-catered, so this informed my preferences. If you prefer to be catered for or if you want to be closer to lecture theatres then on-campus accommodation may be more preferable.

79. Lauren Kelly: Hi - do you have any advice or ideas on how open days and things will work in year 13 and would it maybe be a good idea to defer a year as I understand many unis might be looking at lots more online classes?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Lauren. Thanks for your question! It's really difficult to say at the moment what's going to happen. Many universities, including the University of Exeter, have moved their Open Days online for the summer, in an effort to make sure that students in year 12 are still able to access the information about the university despite everything that's going on. Unfortunately, we just don't know yet what's going to happen in the next academic year, and there is, as yet, no guidance about deferring a year, etc.. I can only assure you that the University of Exeter, and every other university, is currently working on this issue, and they are very conscious of how this will be affecting students in year 12 who are looking to go to uni next year. If you have any more questions, please do contact us at [exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk).

80. Freya Hall: Are there any interesting societies or clubs you would recommend joining at Exeter?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Freya, I would recommend joining societies related to your subject of study (if you study Geography, joining Geography Society for example) as this is a great opportunity to meet people on your course. I'm part of Lacrosse which is a sports club, which I would definitely recommend joining as you don't need to play the sport to attend social events but there are also beginners teams and mixed teams so you get the most value from the club. Also joining clubs around your interests is a brilliant way to meet new people, such as Snow Sports club or Exeter Entrepreneurs.

81. OlenaMilan: What will happen to the Exeter scholars programme next year?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Olena. Thanks for your question! The Exeter Scholars programme will definitely continue for you and everyone else. At the moment we simply can't say whether any subject activity sessions are going to be run in the next term, for obvious reasons, but everything else that we provide for you will continue as it would have done. We offer personal statement checking, help with UCAS applications, advice for interviews, and the opportunity to become a Senior Scholar and access additional benefits. I hope that this answers your question, but if you would like any further clarification then please email us at [exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk).

82. briony trougton: for the Exeter Scholars programme, does it continue into year 13?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Briony. Thanks for your question! The Exeter Scholars programme does indeed continue into year 13. I'm afraid that we can't confirm whether or not there will be subject activity sessions running in the new academic year, for obvious reasons, but everything else that we provide for you will continue as it would have done. We offer personal statement checking, help with UCAS applications, advice for interviews, and the opportunity to become a Senior Scholar and access additional benefits. I hope that this answers your question, but if you would like any further information then please email us at [exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk).

83. rachelbiggs: how long do we have to complete the scholars programme considering our sessions are postponed

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Rachel. Thanks for your question! The deadline to meet the minimum time requirement and pass the Exeter Scholars programme is 31st December 2020, so there is plenty of time remaining for you to complete the programme.

84. Will Hooper: What's the best way to end a personal statement?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Will. Thanks for your question! Personal statements can be really tricky, but there is some guidance that makes them a bit easier! You can make yourself stand out by engaging with the subject you've chosen, and demonstrating clearly why you've chosen that subject and why you should be offered a place to study it. About 70–80% of your personal statement should be directly relevant to your subject. You can then bring in transferable skills that you have that show why you would be a good student in that subject. The ending should then summarise what you've said – but I'm afraid there's no 'one size fits all' way to end a personal statement. The Exeter Scholars programme offers a personal statement checking service, so you can

send your personal statement to [exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk) and we will check it over for you. We can do this as many times as you like, so you can send us the roughest draft and we'll help you with it! I hope that this helps.

85. Olivia\_Thomas: Hi Siobhan, will there be more subject activity sessions after summer so we can get up to the correct number of sessions?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Olivia. Thanks for your question! I'm afraid that we're not able to confirm whether or not there will be more subject activity sessions in the new academic year, as we simply don't yet know what's going to happen with reopening the university. However, we have changed the minimum time requirements so that you and all Exeter Scholars participants are able to meet the minimum time requirement and pass the programme through the online events that are now on offer (e.g. these online forums, the Discover University events, etc.). This means that, if we are able to resume subject activity sessions, then you'll be able to participate and get the subject content that you want, but you can be safe in the knowledge of having passed the programme already. Similarly, if we're not able to resume subject activity sessions, then you will have the ability to pass the programme even without the in-person events, and so access all the benefits of the programme. I hope that this makes sense!

86. Flora Turberville-Smith: In terms of the Exeter Scholars programme will there be any virtual sessions or resources directly related to our chosen subject strands

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Flora. Thanks for your question! I'm afraid that we don't yet have an answer for this, simply because we don't yet know what will happen with reopening the University. If we can do some in-person subject activity sessions in the academic year then we will certainly be looking into doing so, and we will be looking into doing virtual content if in-person sessions are not feasible. Please do bear in mind that the University is running an online event series called Discover University, which has a lot of subject-specific content delivered by University of Exeter academics: [www.facebook.com/DiscoverUniExe](https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverUniExe). I hope that this helps!

87. Joseph Hunter: Do you pay the same yearly price as a normal year on a year abroad?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Joseph - I pay 1/3 of the normal university fees for my year abroad. However this may be subject to change over the next few years given the uncertainty around Brexit.

88. Spencer Shepherd: How does UoExeter plan to go about the 2021 cohort as we will have a lack personal statement qualities and perhaps won't even get the grades we want/ deserve?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Spencer. Thanks for your question! I'm afraid there is no answer to this question quite yet, as the focus at the moment has been on year 13 students and offer-holders who are due to start in September. However, the University is definitely thinking about this and considering carefully what to do for year 12 students who are potentially thinking about starting university next year, particularly with the question of grades. You can find more information on the University's web pages about coronavirus: [www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospectivestudents/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospectivestudents/)

89. Em Turoczy-Eggins: What would you say is the most beneficial things about studying abroad is and why did you personally chose it? Is it also financially straining compared to a regular uni course?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Em! For me, my study abroad experience has truly increased my confidence in my ability to try new things and to socialise with different people. I was able to try things that I had only ever read about, or seen in movies - such as joining a sorority in the United States! In terms of the financial aspect of it, there are certainly additional costs that one may incur during a year abroad, such as travel costs, visa costs, and medical costs. On the other hand, however, tuition fees are significantly reduced for a year abroad, and there are also several different grants and bursaries for which you might be eligible!

90. Shimoli Shah: When are the current Exeter students returning to university after lockdown?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Shimoli. Thanks for your question! I'm afraid the University is still considering this, and it depends on a number of factors. The University is currently looking at planning a phased reopening of the campuses, but this will take time and depends on government and Public Health England advice. Sorry that we can't give a firm answer at the moment! You can find any updates for prospective students on the University's website: [www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospectivestudents/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospectivestudents/)

91. Luiseach Gillespie: Where did you have your year abroad and where are the best places to study abroad?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Luiseach! I studied abroad in the United States, at an institution named Montana State University - and I had an excellent time! However, I have heard positive testimonies from friends who have studied abroad all over the world, notably in Australia, Spain, and Amsterdam. Honestly, I find it difficult to tell you which is the 'best place' to study abroad - it is dependent on your own personal interests, and where exactly in the world you would like to live for a year!

92. Ella Hewitt: With regards to the study abroad, did you have to apply for it at the start of your course, or could you join later?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Ella - you can do both. I applied before university as I wanted to do Spanish as part of my degree too, meaning a year abroad was designed from the outset. You can also apply to study abroad when you are in second year and you will go through an application process stipulating where you want to go and what you want to study. These places are competitive so you need to have at least a 2:1 to go to your first preference.

93. Nye Herron: where can we find information regarding what different unis are doing about the virus? Is there one place to look or should we just look at the individual websites?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Nye. Thanks for your question! Unfortunately there's not one place to go to for this information, and you should look at every university's website individually for their response. They are very likely to have a specific section of their website for coronavirus-related queries and information, and I expect this will be very clearly signposted. For example, here is the University of Exeter's: [www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/). I hope that this helps!

94. Ella Hewitt: Is a study abroad programme seen as a well-regarded thing for employers?

\* Student Ambassador01: Years abroad are very good at making an application stand out from other students as they show greater independence and confidence than simply studying for 3 years. They also provide you with a unique international perspective which employers like as it shows you can think in a broader way and are more sensitive to cultural differences.

95. Emma Budge: Do you have to have any qualifications in a language if you want to take it alongside Law?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Emma - you don't need any prior qualifications to study a language, you can start from beginners level if you wanted to.

96. Ryan Reid: I heard that some unis are planning to start the 2020-21 year online. Are you planning to do that?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Ryan. Thanks for your question. I'm afraid that I can't provide any answers about this at the moment, as the University is still considering its options. This decision would depend on a number of factors. The University is currently looking at planning a phased reopening of the campuses, but this will take time and depends on government and Public Health England advice. Sorry that we can't give a firm answer at the moment! You can find any updates for prospective students on the University's website:

[www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospectivestudents/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospectivestudents/)

97. Ethan Bingham: Why did you choose university over an apprenticeship?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Ethan - I chose to study because I did not know what I wanted to do when I left University, I only knew that I wanted to study law because it interested me academically. At the time there were also no opportunities to do an apprenticeship in the legal sector, so I did not see this as a possible opportunity for me.

98. Reshma Thapa Magar: Hi, what type of revision do you recommend for the UCAS test?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Reshma. Thanks for your question! I'm sorry, which UCAS test are you referring to?

99. Madison Eathorne: am I able to take part in the yr13 Q&As and will they count towards the Exeter Scholars programme?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Madison. Thanks for your question! Participation in the Exeter Scholars live online Q&A forums (so this, but for year 13s!) definitely counts towards your attendance, provided that they take place before the deadline of 31st December 2020. Any sessions that you take part in after that date will unfortunately not count, unless you have any extenuating circumstances and have spoken to us about them. We hope that the deadline of 31st December gives you ample time to meet the minimum time requirement and pass the programme.

100. Rachael Trethewey: When we book open days do we have to book individual talks or do we just book a place on the open day generally?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Rachael. Thanks for your question! For a usual Open Day (i.e. not online), you would need to book for subject-specific talks for subjects that you are interested in studying. However, for the online Open Days – and I can only speak for the University of Exeter – you book onto the day rather than specific talks. It's then up to you to plan which talks to watch and which online 'booths' to enter to ask questions. This might sound strange now, but it should all make sense when you see the Open Day online platform! You can find out more about the online Open Days, and book a place, here: [www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit/).

101. Lowena Dunstan: In regards to Exeter scholars, is there a way I can check how many sessions I have to complete?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Lowena. Thanks for your question. There is indeed! Please simply email [exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk), and I'll be able to check that for you and let you know how you can make up the time. (I'm afraid I can't do it right now!)

102. Bethan Sharples: How many years is it possible to defer an application?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Bethan. Thanks for your question! According to the University's website, 'You may be allowed to defer your application for one academic year. If you wish to defer again after this, you will need to reapply via the normal route'. This was found here: [www.exeter.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/faq/#defer](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/faq/#defer). You can find more information about deferring your offer here: [www.exeter.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/offers/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/offers/). I hope that this helps!

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Bethan. Apologies, I've just noticed I sent you the wrong link! You can find the correct link here: [www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/applying/howtoapply/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/applying/howtoapply/)

103. Jessica Owens: I know someone from another uni in the country who has had her degree that was meant to start in September moved to September 2021. Is this likely to happen to Exeter students starting in September and if so will this mean there are less places available for those of us wanting to start uni next year?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Jessica. Thanks for your question! I'm afraid that I can't provide any answers about this at the moment, as the University is still considering its options. This decision would depend on a number of factors. The University is currently looking at planning a phased reopening of the campuses, but this will take time and depends on government and Public Health England advice. Really sorry that we can't give a firm answer at the moment! You can find any updates for prospective students on the University's website: [www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospectivestudents/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospectivestudents/)

104. Neve: Hi, does Exeter lower grades if you take part in extra-curriculars such as Nuffield Research or EPQ?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Neve. Thanks for your question! I'm afraid that the University of Exeter does not lower grades for the extra-curriculars that you've mentioned. However, as an Exeter Scholar, the offer that you receive for a degree course is the lowest that it would go – so you're already getting the best offer thanks to your participation in Exeter Scholars! Participation in those extra-curriculars is still extremely valuable, of course, and can really boost your personal statement – and other universities may view them differently. I hope that this helps.

105. EvaPascoe: Hi, I'm looking to study medicine. When applying to Exeter, do I have to have completed all of my A Levels in the same academic year?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Eva. Thanks for your question. It's great to hear that you're interested in studying Medicine! Your A Levels do not have to have been completed in the same year in order for you to apply. I hope that this is reassuring!

106. Jasper Roebuck: Are there any roles for those who would like to help the student ambassadors but with a lower profile.

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Jasper. Sorry that I answered your second question first! I hope that you found the answer useful.

107. rachelbiggs: what is the minimum time requirement?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Rachel. Thanks for your question! If you meant the minimum time requirement to pass the Exeter Scholars programme, then the answer is 5 sessions. This includes the in-person sessions that you've already completed as part of the programme, and the Exeter Scholars Student Conference in November 2019. If you want to know how many sessions you've attended and how many more you have to pass, then please email [exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk) and I'll be able to let you know!

108. Emily Burroughs: Will there be more planned Q & A sessions after the 27th May?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Emily. Thanks for your question! If the demand for the Q&As continues, then I will definitely plan more in after the 27th May. They seem to be very popular, so I think we will add at least two more this term. This will always be updated on the Exeter Scholars website and an email sent out to everyone to inform you all of this. I hope that this helps!

109. Riya Johnson 2: If you have missed any sessions of Exeter scholars for this year, can you still make up for it and pass?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Riya. Thanks for your question. Yes, you absolutely can! You need to meet the minimum time requirement of 5 sessions, so this means that as long as you've attend 5 sessions – or their online equivalent – in total, then you will be able to pass the programme. The deadline for completing the

programme is 31st December 2020. If you want to check how many sessions you've done and how many you have left to complete, then please email [exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk), and I can check for you (although I'm afraid I can't do so now!).

110. ThomasOates: Would you recommend staying on-campus at the accommodation, or coming in each day from home?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Thomas. Thanks for your question! This entirely depends on your individual situation and circumstances. There are a number of students who continue to live at home and travel into university for their classes, including previous Exeter Scholars participants; this can be a great way to save money on accommodation costs, and can ease any worries about transitioning, as you have the familiarity of home. Equally, there are a lot of students who have caring responsibilities or other reasons for wanting to remain at home, and they can find support with this. There are often communities of students who all 'live out', and so this can be a group of students already with something in common. On the other side, you may feel that living at home means that you can't be as sociable at night as you want to be – but of course this isn't for everyone! There is plenty of daytime socialising, during and after lectures, so there's no need for this to be the case! It really is a decision for you. I hope that this helps.

111. Archie Davey: Hi would you recommend a combined degree?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Archie. Thanks for your question! A combined degree is great if you have two subjects that you want to study and that you can't decide between. There is no particular benefit of a combined degree over a single-subject degree in itself; the difference is whether it's right for you! If you know that you only want to study one subject, then stick with a single-subject degree; if not, then a combined degree might be the one for you! I hope that this helps.

112. rachelbiggs: are there going to be anymore online sessions that aren't listed online as there isn't enough on there if I were to complete the rest of the programme online?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Rachel. If you mean the live online Q&A forums, then we are looking into adding more into the summer, given that the demand for them is very high. Please bear in mind, too, that you can complete the programme by participating (i.e. asking a question) in any of the Discover University events run by the University of Exeter here: [www.facebook.com/DiscoverUniExe](https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverUniExe). If you want more information about this, please do email [exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk), and I'll be able to help you.

113. Talan grigg: can you do a year abroad with a physics degree

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Talan. Thanks for your question! You can indeed – you can find the course variants for a BSc Physics degree here: [www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/physics/physicsbsc/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/physics/physicsbsc/). You can do Study Abroad or Professional Placement with this degree.

114. Jessica Owens: I haven't done any work experience in the particular area I would like to study in. I was planning on doing some over the summer or in the next term but I am concerned that I won't be able to do it because of the current situation. Would you say work experience is essential and important to put in a personal statement and are there any alternatives you would suggest?

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Jessica. Thanks for your question! It's of course a shame that you likely won't be able to do work experience because of the current situation. However, please bear in mind that most students are in the same boat, in this respect. Universities are also extremely aware that this is going to have a knock-on effect on work experience and students' personal statements, so everyone understands the difficult situation you're all in. There are plenty of other things that you can put in a personal statement though!

\* Siobhan Harper: Personal statements can be really tricky, but there is some guidance that makes them a bit easier! You can make yourself stand out by engaging with the subject you've chosen, and demonstrating clearly why you've chosen that subject and why you should be offered a place to study it. About 70–80% of your personal statement should be directly relevant to your subject. You can then bring in transferable skills that you have that show why you would be a good student in that subject. The ending should then summarise what you've said – but I'm afraid there's no 'one size fits all' way to end a personal statement. The Exeter Scholars programme offers a personal statement checking service, so you can send your personal statement to [exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk) and we will check it over for you. We can do this as many times as you like, so you can send us the roughest draft and we'll help you with it! I hope that this helps.

115. Jasper Roebuck: I asked about roles less demanding than student ambassador because I like to help people but I am not brilliant at finding accurate information. Would I be able to contribute??

\* Siobhan Harper: Hi Jasper. Thanks for your question! If you get a position as a Student Ambassador, then you are able to choose what jobs you take on in that role. So you can choose to only do work for your subject, or to only do campus tours, or whatever else suits you. The only potential exception to this is for Open Days and Offer-Holder Visit Days, which are such big events that they often need as many Student Ambassadors as possible. However, the Student Ambassador team are wonderful (they work closely with the Exeter Scholars team!) and are very understanding of this kind of situation. You would certainly be able to contribute, and we need Student Ambassadors with a variety of skills! I hope that this helps.

116. \* 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/](http://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/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/exeterscholars/contact/currentparticipants/).

117. Siobhan Harper: IMPORTANT: WE'RE REALLY SORRY IF WE DIDN'T GET TO YOUR QUESTION! IF YOU POSTED A QUESTION IN THE ONLINE FORUM, THEN YOUR PARTICIPATION WILL COUNT AND BE RECORDED – EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T GET AN ANSWER. IF WE WEREN'T ABLE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, THEN AN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION WILL BE EMAILED TO YOU AS SOON AS WE CAN.

## Open Questions (107)

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119. (Deleted) OlenaMilan: If you do a combined degree, how do you balance your time between the two subjects?
120. Connor Maddever: What factors do you look for when deciding which University to go to?
121. Millie Monks: Him, I was wondering what sort of beneficial things can you do in your gap year before uni that don't include travelling or volunteering?
122. OlenaMilan: How did you come to study at Exeter?
123. (Deleted) Verity Winn: How would you recommend finding work experience related to the field in which you are studying?
124. Scarlett Bernard-John: what type of work do you do as a student ambassador?
125. Flora Turberville-Smith: Is it more of a challenge to joint honours instead of doing a single subject? Is there a larger workload? Do get less out of each subject?
126. Stacey Cole: I am interested in studying geography. Please can you tell me more about the involvement with the met office
127. Mikey Kessell: Why did you choose Exeter University?
128. Connor Maddever: How big is the jump between A Levels and Uni? And how did you deal with this?
129. Sophie Clist: Hi, did any of you take a gap year before university and would you recommend doing this to get some life experience first?
130. Kylestevens: Are there usually conflicts between study and activities outside of university?
131. Josie Waite: What are the best interview tips?
132. Jessica Owens: Are any of you doing degree apprenticeships or know anyone that's doing one? I am considering doing one but I didn't know if there were any benefits of doing one rather than a normal degree course?
133. Emma Budge: How do you make your revision notes?
134. claudiabaulf: Is the amount of work set a vast jump from A-levels? What is it like?
135. Riya Johnson 2: What should you do if you're unsure about what course to do?
136. Emily Booth: What are the benefits of doing a year abroad?
137. Ben\_Heyes: Hi everyone. Just wondering how much halls of residence cost, how that might compare to other options, and what your accommodation preference as a student was when you arrived at university?
138. annabelle moger-taylor: at Exeter uni, what opportunities are there to get involved in music or performing arts?
139. Cameron pearce: what surprised you most about Exeter since you joined the university?

140. Muntaha Hasnath: Hi, what is the first few weeks like for a first year after joining the Uni?
141. Ella Hewitt: Is law with Spanish a flexible combined honours? Would you recommend doing 2 subjects or is it harder to stay on top of things? I was thinking Geography with economics possibly?
142. IndiaPears: What is the accommodation like at Exeter?
143. Em Turoczy-Eggs: Does Exeter Uni offer abroad placements (I'm looking at the Psychology or Clinical Psychology course)?
144. Elise Garbutt: Hi, what do you think is the best way to decide on a course if you are stuck between two?
145. Holly Marchington: Is it possible to do a year abroad and in industry?
146. Ella May: If you study law with a foreign language do you get a full law qualification or do you have to do the GDL conversion course after?
147. Ben\_Heyes: Is there any way that I could combine physics and history for a joint course? Although quite different subjects I enjoy them both and am finding it hard to choose between them. I wondered if a joint honours was an option in this case?
148. laura james: Are you guaranteed accommodation in halls in the first year?
149. Archie Davey: hello, I'm archie, would you suggest taking a gap year?? And would it count against you going to uni?
150. Aaliyah Purnell: How much should I factor a universities distance away from me in my decision?
151. Mikey Kessell: Is accommodation guaranteed for the entirety of your degree?
152. Muntaha Hasnath: Could we get help with writing our personal statements and interview prep for prospective medical students?
153. ThomasOates: Do you recommend applying for a degree apprenticeship?
154. LeahDowrick: do you find you receive a lot of support at your university?
155. Laura Mo: Hi, are there any bursaries/ funding support available for a year studying abroad?
156. Briony Troughton: are there any extra-curriculars we could be doing while in lockdown to aid our applications?
157. Ethan Bingham: How did you cope with student accommodation?
158. laura james: hi, would you recommend catered or self-catered accommodation?
159. Kai Waldron 2: Was there and part of you that was worried about the financial part of going to university?
160. Laura Mo: Who can I ask to help writing resumes and application letters for jobs?
161. Alex Shackleton: What were some of the main reasons Exeter stood out from your other university choices?
162. Cameron Pearce: what is your favourite thing about Exeter University?

163. Freya Rose 2: What is your favourite thing about Exeter University?
164. Ella Hewitt: Would you recommend a flexible combined honours? Is it hard to balance both subjects?
165. Ella Hewitt: With the study abroad programme, is it hard to immerse yourself into a different culture? Where did you go?
166. Alice Ratcliffe: Hi, if I was to do a year abroad how is it arranged? Does the student find the university themselves or does Exeter help you with that. Also, how much of a financial burden is it compared to a normal year at university. Thank you, hope you are keeping well!
167. Ethan Bingham: Are you worried about the level of debt when you leave university?
168. Ben\_Heyes: Is there any way that I could combine physics and history for a joint course? Although quite different subjects I enjoy them both and am finding it hard to choose between them. I wondered if a joint honours was an option in this case?
169. Kai waldron 2: What should I do if I do not meet the expected grades I need for the course?
170. Kaitlyn Lancaster: What transferable skills from pre-University life have you found particularly useful in your studies?
171. Katherine Raynor: on the website it only shows forums up to May 2020. Does that mean there's no more or are they just not announced yet
172. Em Turoczy-Eggs: If some subject sessions for Exeter Scholars continue when all of this has died down, do you think it's likely we will still be able to go on the trips such as Exeter Courts?
173. Archie Davey: Could you do a split economics and geography degree?
174. Louis Griffiths-Bird: Hello, what is everyday student life like at Exeter University?
175. Tracy Man: Is it difficult to balance social life and studying at university?
176. Shimoli Shah: What's studying abroad like?
177. Giovanni Dameno: Hi, can you suggest my any valid source in order to complete properly my online application for UCAS?
178. Kiera Bonetta: Does the university offer a further grade reduction for students who do an EPQ?
179. Lalita Wong: Hi, do you know if early entry applicants for uni will be affected or will they continue to keep the deadline in October?
180. laura james: If you study a year abroad, does the subject or course that you study affect where you can go?
181. Katherine Raynor: hi how important do you think it is to keep a routine during lockdown because I'm struggling to keep to mine
182. Sophie Holder: overall I've completed 2 subject strands and 3 online sessions like this. Is that enough to pass the scholars programme?
183. Shimoli Shah: How do you maintain productivity for long period of time?

184. Chloe Hobby: How do we know when we have done enough to pass the programme?
185. freya wright: Would you suggest catered or self-catering accommodation? :)
186. Neve: When studying abroad, do you study or English or your chosen language during your fourth year?
187. Ben\_Heyes: Is there any way that I could combine physics and history for a joint course? Although quite different subjects I enjoy them both and am finding it hard to choose between them. I wondered if a joint honours was an option in this case?
188. Toby O'Donoghue: How available is work for students around the uni if you want it?
189. Lalita Wong: Do you guys have any tips with keeping motivated while studying?
190. ThomasOates: What is the accommodation?
191. Joe B: Is it possible to get part time jobs as well as balance studies? Or should studies be a number 1 priority?
192. Jack Follas: Hi there, how easy/difficult is it to fit work in with studies? And how do you get a job as a student ambassador?
193. Giovanni Dameno: Is it true that Exeter uni is the best campus-university in UK, after Loughborough?
194. Anna Clarke: What made you choose Exeter?
195. Louis McCracken: How much free time do you get at university?
196. ThomasOates: What is the accommodation like?
197. claudiabaulf: is there sufficient time for a social life at uni or is your time taken up by studies?
198. Alice Ratcliffe: How do you become a student ambassador? Is it something you start doing after 1st year? Thanks, hope you're all well :)
199. Ella Stoenescu: Besides student ambassador, are there any other part time jobs available for students on campus?
200. Ella Hewitt: As lots of our work experience and things for personal statements have been cancelled, what can you recommend we do from home to enhance our personal statements?
201. Or Karny-Munoz: What's student life like in terms of socialising with people studying your subject v a different subject?
202. rachelbiggs: how much does student ambassador get paid?
203. Emma Coumbe: Hello, would you recommend staying in accommodation near to Exeter University? What would you consider when looking for accommodation? Thank you
204. Giovanni Dameno: Do u think business or economics is an easy-degree compared to other?
205. Alex Shackleton: Is it easy to change degrees if you decide the degree you initially chose isn't for you?
206. N.H: When choosing your degree, what made you decide to study abroad?
207. Ella Hewitt: Is it hard to get a job as a student ambassador?

208. Jack Follas: With the modern languages degree year overseas, are you limited to Exeter's partner universities or is it possible to spend time in Argentina as a gaucho riding horses through Patagonia, for example?
209. Or Karny-Munoz: How important were course-related endeavours before university compared to grades in getting into uni?
210. emily lentern: did you cope well with the transition process into university life?
211. Coby Williams: What is life like for everyone on campus during this pandemic?
212. Emily Rees: Hello! I'm struggling to choose a subject to study at uni as I'm just not sure what I would enjoy the most. Do you have any advice for when choosing what subject strand to take?
213. Sophia Averiss: Is it hard to balance having a job and university studies?
214. Niamh stephen: Was the move to university as daunting as you expected?
215. Ella Melville: Is the student ambassador role popular at uni/do many people become one?
216. Amber Rogers: Are there any specific aspects to look into when comparing universities?
217. Oliver Rose: What's the one thing you would have wanted to know before joining uni?
218. eleanor tucker: Would you recommend the study abroad option?
219. TomBritton: What is your favourite thing about university?
220. Rhiannon Vipond: How did you manage your time effectively when most of your work was independent?
221. Caitlin Wright: Do you recommend taking a study year abroad?
222. Bronwen: hi, is the cost of a year aboard worth it?
223. Ethan Bingham: Were you nervous about uni before joining?
224. Riya Johnson 2: What should you avoid doing in your personal statement?
225. Riya Johnson 2: Roughly at what stage of Year 12 should you be having an idea of what course and career you would like to do?
226. Riya Johnson 2: What subjects can you start at beginners' level if you wanted to?