

Year 12

Advice & Tips for Starting at University

Wednesday 25th March 2020

1. * Student Ambassador01: Hi, my name is Isabel and I am currently in my fourth year studying French and German. The theme for today's forum is Choosing a University. 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! I will

2. * Student Ambassador01: Also answering your questions today is Eleanor and they will introduce themselves to you in a moment.

3. * Student Ambassador02: Hi everyone, my name is Eleanor and I'm in my third year studying Physics, I'm also here to answer any questions you might have.

4. * Student Ambassador01: I hope that all makes sense. To get us started, has anyone thought about what university they want to attend?

5. lauren.kelly: Unfortunately can't go on any open days though with the current situation

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Lauren, it's a difficult situation but there's lots of information on each university's website - lots of universities have videos of campus tours or talks about departments which will help you to learn more about them

6. * Student Ambassador02: Which subjects are you all interested in studying?

7. NyeHerron: What would you say are the best qualities to look for in a University?

* Student Ambassador01: Choosing a university is a very personal choice. The layout and content of the course is obviously a very important factor. However, you might also want to think about whether you'd prefer a campus or city university, how far away from home you would be comfortable with going, also whether you would like to be in a big city or prefer a slightly small place :) visiting universities to get a feel for them definitely helps, but if you're unable to do this (especially given the current circumstances) I would

definitely recommend having a good look on all the university webpages, including things like information about extra-curricular opportunities!

8. Jessica Owens: I've thought about studying at Exeter or Cardiff and was planning to go to some open days but with everything shut down due to Covid-19 I won't be able to attend these days. Do you have any experience with Cardiff and what's Exeter like?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Jessica, I went to visit Cardiff when I was looking at open days - it wasn't an open day so I wasn't able to see everything. It was really nice - the facilities looked good. Exeter is great, I love the location (a campus university but we're still close to the city), there are lots of new facilities and all my lecturers are really friendly!

9. Emily Rees: Hiya! I have been considering studying either English or psychology at Exeter and I was wondering what financial support there is available for students?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Emily, one of my housemates studies Psychology, she really loves it! There's some information here about the financial support available to students:
www.exeter.ac.uk/students/finance/studentfunding/applyingforfinancialsupport/.

10. Adam.sg: I was hoping to go to Exeter since there ancient and classics is one thing I would like to study and I'm interested in History is Exeter a good university to do this in?

* Student Ambassador01: Exeter has a very good academic reputation. I know people who study both history and classics here and they have all had very positive experiences. However, I would recommend taking a look at the latest university league tables for your subject online to get an idea of which universities are particularly good for your subject. It is important to use this only as a guide, because you should also factor in where you think you will feel most at home (location, city vs campus etc.).

* Student Ambassador01: League tables that could be useful: Complete University Guide, Times Higher Education and the Guardian :)

11. Marie: I'm considering studying Law but not sure where. Do you think it's worth taking into account the social side of a uni when applying?

* Student Ambassador01: Hi Marie, that's great to hear you're considering law. Yes, it is definitely important to consider the social side of things when looking at universities. This includes things like the societies on offer, the different university facilities, perhaps also events and facilities in the town/city where the university is based. It is important to remember that on top of studying, you will have a lot of free time at university to get involved in other things. Therefore, it is always worth thinking about what you enjoy doing in your spare time and then seeing which universities could provide the best opportunities to get more involved in this (i.e. some unis have very good drama and music opportunities and others are excellent for sport). Hope this helps!

12. Briony: I love English but now I think I really want to do geography and I have some top uni choices but I don't know how to know what I'm looking for

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Briony, lots of people are in the same situation, it's difficult to decide which subject to take! There's a course called 'Flexible Combined Honours' (FCH) at Exeter where you could combine subjects and study both (I think English and Geography are options). It's also possible to take modules outside your normal subject called electives. It's a big decision, I'd advise looking at the modules available at each uni to see which interest you the most as they can vary quite a bit

13. Jasper Roebuck: I would like to study Geography and was wondering about learning support for dyslexia in this subject

* Student Ambassador01: Hi Jasper! I cannot give you a full answer to this question; each university will have various support systems in place including Individual Learning Plans which factor in things like extra time during exams etc. However, specific support policies will vary between universities. I would definitely recommend looking for information on this on the university websites, and if you have no luck there, contacting the universities via email or talking to staff directly if you get the opportunity to attend open days. I hope this helps a little bit!

14. Lucy Hancock: Hi there, I am struggling to choose a university only based on their website (no open days)- do you have any advice?

* Student Ambassador01: Hi Lucy, I understand not being able to visit universities must feel like a big inconvenience. However, there are other ways to find out more information on universities. As well as looking on the university websites, if you use social media, then many unis run Facebook and Instagram pages where you can find out more information on student life as well as specific courses. I would also check out YouTube as some universities upload videos, including campus tours which you may find useful to give you more of a feel for the place! Good luck with it all!

15. Sarah.Rowely: Hello Isabel and Eleanor, I am currently think of applying to Oxford, Exeter and Edinburgh. I wanted to ask if you are local to Exeter or if it's far from home? I was also wondering how you adjusted to living in halls, and if there was any specific aspects which made you choose Exeter over your other choices? Thank you in advance for your answers :)

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Sarah, I live near Reading (about 1 hour 40 mins on the train) - for me that distance is quite good as I'm in a completely different part of the country so I can visit new places but I'm close enough to go home for a weekend if I want to. Lots of my friends at Exeter are quite local (some live at home and some live in Exeter with friends) - it all depends what's best for you. I would advise everyone to check transport links before picking a university as it makes it easier when you need to bring all your belongings home!

Living in halls was strange at first - I had never been away from home for more than about 5 nights before so it was a bit daunting, but I skyped my family quite a bit at the start then found that I settled in quite quickly. I really liked the staff in the Physics department and I liked the research areas - everyone was really friendly and helpful :)

16. charlottebarker: I'm interested in medicine but a bit worried with how I'm going to get the grades to get in with the current situation

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Charlotte, it's a very complicated situation at the moment with so much uncertainty - everyone is in the same position and the government is doing all it can to minimise the impact. Hopefully more information will be given soon

17. Tia Carmichael: Do you think you can make a good decision about which Uni to go to without doing a campus tour?

* Student Ambassador01: Hi Tia! Whilst campus tours can definitely be useful in terms of giving you a better feel for the university environment, it is definitely possible to make an informed decision without doing one. The most important thing is to find out as much information as you can about your chosen course of study, the range of extra-curricular opportunities on offer and whilst you may not opt for a campus tour, considering whether you'd prefer a campus style university or would prefer to be based in a city is very important. If the problem is not being able to attend the universities in person, many universities offer digital campus tour on their website or YouTube if you're interested! Good luck!

18. EvaPascoe: I'm looking to study medicine and have looked around some universities on their open days. Obviously due to these difficult times, I fully respect and understand the need to stop them. My question is do you know if any open days I had booked will honour my place? Also do you know if unis are creating any other resources to help this?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Eva, I'm sorry I don't know if booked places will be honoured. I know that Exeter created a video of the offer holder day last month which is on YouTube/Facebook I believe. There are some campus tour videos on the Exeter YouTube channel and I think more virtual resources are being created at the moment

19. Angus Hirst: What do you feel like you missed out on by going to university rather than one of the other options?

* Student Ambassador01: A very good question! I was always quite keen on going to university - studying languages at A Level I really wanted to continue improving these. However, going to university isn't always the best option for everyone, it is a very personal decision. If you have a particular career in mind and are quite keen on going into the workplace as soon as possible, post A-Level apprenticeships could be something you may want to look into. One of my favourite things about university as well as the course has been the social life - living with or near your friends and having so many societies to get involved with or different events to attend is so much fun and something really unique to university life. As well as this, it is a really great transition period from school to work, gaining slightly more independence but not getting thrown in the deep end. But definitely consider all the options :)

20. Amelia: How did you chose that you wanted to go to Exeter

* Student Ambassador01: I really liked the course at Exeter. However, the main thing that swayed me to put it as my firm choice was the atmosphere on campus. I knew I definitely wanted a campus university because I'm not as much a city person, but the Exeter campus was particularly attractive and full of life. I also liked how close it is to the city centre. Choosing a university is a very personal choice, and for me Exeter was ultimately where I felt I would be happiest :)

21. Eleanor Collings: Hiya :) is there anyone who is interested in the dance/musical theatre strand which could tell me a little about that course please?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Eleanor, I'm afraid I don't know anything about the dance/musical theatre strand - the Exeter Scholars team should be able to give you some more information by email if you ask them

22. Daisy Griffin: How do you know you've picked the right university?

* Student Ambassador01: Choosing a university can be very challenging, but if you do your research I am sure you will pick what is right for you! Key things to consider are definitely the course, the location (town/city/by the sea etc.), campus vs city university and the range of extra-curricular opportunities on offer. Visiting several universities can also be useful if you get the chance later in the year, but this is not essential. If you look into all the things above, I'm sure that you will begin to get a feel of where is most suited to you :)

23. laura mo: Hi there, would you say going to a city uni means higher living and travel costs or is it about the same as a campus uni.

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Laura, I don't think there are any definite rules, costs vary for every university but there will always be a range of accommodation to suit everyone

24. Alice Asquith: Which universities often require you to go for an interview?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Alice, I believe that Oxford and Cambridge interview for all subjects - it varies by subject for all other universities. I had 3 interviews (Exeter, Southampton and Sheffield) - Exeter don't interview for many subjects though - the uni websites should give more details

25. darceygreenland: because we are unable to visit in person, how much weight should we put on the reputation of the uni??

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Darcey - that's quite a difficult question as the league tables change every year! When I was looking I looked at the tables for several years to see which universities were near the top for my subject and overall. It's also very important to consider the location and the course content

26. OliverLuxton: What's the best way to get in touch with people who attend the universities which I want to attend? Thanks!

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Oliver, I'm not sure about other universities but I know Exeter are running a number of Q&A sessions for offer holders on Facebook so they might be doing something similar for new applicants - you could email the admissions team at each university to ask them what options they have

27. Toby Diment-Aylott: For choosing between two subjects, should I prioritise my ability in the subjects, enjoyment of the subject or career opportunity afterwards?

* Student Ambassador01: Whilst all 3 factors are important, I would personally say that it is most essential to enjoy what you are studying. Studying 1 or 2 subjects at university can be quite intense and it is very important that you like what you are studying or you might find yourself not wanting to engage with the university experience! It is definitely worth considering what career you might want to go into afterwards, and looking up which degrees would be best for getting into this. However, many careers nowadays are not too fussy on which subject you study but may just require a degree in any subject.

28. Samuel Cambridge: Are either of you studying at Falmouth, and if yes what's it like as a student?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Samuel, I'm at the Streatham Campus but I have heard that the Falmouth campus has a real community feel as it's smaller (really close to the beach too)!

29. Freya Rose: Was living costs a big factor you considered when looking for a university?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Freya, yes - it was a big consideration - I checked all the websites for accommodation prices before I visited (unis have a range of different options for everyone though)

30. Tia Carmichael: What is the best quality about Exeter Uni?

* Student Ambassador01: This will definitely vary between students, but for me I would say I really like being able to get a full campus-uni experience whilst still being within walking distance of the city centre and within train distance from the beach!

31. Sam Berne: Which is more important, the course or the university itself

* Student Ambassador01: Both are important things to consider. As a starting point I would definitely look at the course content at each university you are considering to see if you have any preferences. After this, it is really important to find out more about university life, specific assets of each university to see where you think would suit you best. It is important to remember that this will be your new home for 3/4 years, so choosing somewhere right for you is just as important as liking the course!

32. Max Lomas: What other universities did you visit and apply for and why? But also, what made you pick Exeter over the other options?

* Student Ambassador01: Hi Max! I think I visited about 6 or 7 universities in total and my top 5 were Exeter, Bath, Lancaster, Southampton and Warwick. Going to a campus university was very important for me, hence I only chose to look at these. Location was also a factor: I wanted to move away from home but not miles and miles away. I picked Exeter because it was one of my favourite courses and I really liked the feel of the campus, the city and the range of societies to get involved with!

33. Daisy Stevens: Is Exeter a campus university? What are the benefits of a campus university rather than a city uni?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Daisy, Exeter is a campus university, all the academic buildings and lots of accommodation are all close together on one site (St Luke's is about 30 mins across the city) - but we're only a 15 min walk into the city which is really convenient! It's the best of both!

34. lauren.kelly: Could I ask what the most important factors were when it came to your final choice of uni as an idea as I haven't a clue where to start narrowing down :)

* Student Ambassador01: The key things to consider are: the course content (the structure, what modules are on offer, the opportunity to do a year abroad or a placement etc.), the university location (city or small town, how far away from home you are willing to go, do you want to be near the beach or more inland), whether you would prefer a city or a campus-based university, and the range of extra-curricular activities on offer (think about what you are most interested in doing in your spare time). There are many things to consider, but I would say these are some of the most important!

35. Jenny: How did you narrow down your university choices? I have quite a few places that I am considering and I don't know how to narrow my choices down.

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Jenny, I looked at the research areas of each department and the types of modules I wanted to study (exams vs coursework etc) to help narrow it down. It's good to look at transport links too and the surrounding area as you're going to live there for at least 3 years!

36. AaliyahPurnell: How should I prioritise how I chose my university as I want to study medicine and the courses are all very similar so it's hard to choose between them just based on this factor.

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Aalihah, the location and the hospitals you would visit on placements would be my suggestion to help narrow it down

37. Toby O'Donoghue: What is a good way, and how important is it, to balance a Universities ranking in your desired course against the difficulties of getting in, and by extension actually moving to wherever this Uni may be?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Toby, it's important to apply to universities with different entry requirements - I had 2 grades between my firm (Exeter) and my insurance (Southampton) in case I didn't get the results I wanted. Considering how you'll get to uni is important, but it depends how often you're planning to visit home. If you want to go home most weekends then it would be much easier to go to uni close to home

38. Daisy Stevens: What types of accommodation are available at Exeter?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Daisy, there are lots of options: catered or self-catered and en-suite or shared bathrooms. It depends what you'd prefer - some halls are on campus and some are in town

39. Jasper Roebuck: Does Exeter provide good support for dyslexics? I want to study Geography and was hoping that field trips etc would make it more dyslexia friendly.

* Student Ambassador01: Hi Jasper, I think I answered your previous question on support for dyslexics at university :) I can't provide detailed information on this, you would be best to contact each university individually via email. However, to my knowledge, all universities across the UK will have good support systems in place that will cater to your specific needs so this is not something you should be really worried about. For more specific information I would recommend getting in touch with individual universities though! Hope this helps!

40. Or Karny-Munoz: Do you think recommendations by individuals is a solid factor for choosing a uni? If so, what have you found are tells that a person's opinion would be insightful to you (say, if you get conflicting ones) - e.g. secondary school teachers, ex-students, etc.?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Or, I would advise against taking only one person's view into account as they might prefer different things to you. Try to talk to as many people as possible but it's important to make your own decision

41. Sam Shapland: What advice would you give for settling into uni life?

* Student Ambassador01: Starting to university can be quite daunting and feel like a big change. My top advice would be to get involved with as much as possible but whilst staying true to yourself. By that I mean really think about what you enjoy doing (hobbies, nights out or more low-key trips to the cinema etc) and look into societies and socials for these. Doing what you enjoy or getting involved with something new is a great way of meeting new people and finding friends with whom you have things in common. Keeping busy really helps get rid of any home sickness, but equally make sure to leave some time for yourself. Giving yourself time to breathe and take it all in will help too. Even though it may feel overwhelming at first, I am sure you will end up having a great time!

42. Amber Rogers: What other universities did you look into and was Exeter your top choice of university?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Amber, I visited quite a few unis (Exeter, Reading, Royal Holloway, Sheffield, Southampton, Birmingham, Warwick, Manchester, Durham and Cardiff) and Exeter was my top choice - I really liked the department and the surroundings - I could see myself there for 4 years!

43. olly: Hi, for me sport in particular rugby, will play a huge role in my decision of which university is right for me. How does Exeter rank for its sports courses and its sport in general?

* Student Ambassador01: Hi Olly. Exeter has a very good reputation for sport, in particular rugby! There are lots of really great sports facilities too. Lots of other universities such as Bath and Loughborough are also known for their sport, so I would have a research into which universities might provide the best opportunities for rugby in particular!

44. Lisa Skone: If I was to do law at Exeter University, would I have to go to the Penryn Campus or can I study law on the Exeter campus?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Lisa, you can study law at both campuses but I believe the courses are slightly different

45. Naomi C: I hope this isn't too vague, but does anyone have any experience of what uni life is like as an introvert?

* Student Ambassador01: I wouldn't call myself an introvert as such, but what I can say is that the university experience is what you want it to be, and that includes going out/socialising as little or as much as you like! The university offers so many different societies and activities to get involved in, there really is something for everyone. So I'm sure you will fit right in :)

46. Samuel Cambridge: How are you continuing your course with the shut down?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Samuel, our lectures and seminars have moved online and our lecturers are recording our lectures

47. Amelia Browne: I'm currently in a dilemma between choosing a business or art degree, do you have any helpful tips that can help me make a final decision?

* Student Ambassador01: Consider what you are most passionate about/think you would enjoy the most as this is really important. Also consider what kind of career you might like to go into after university and whether there are specific requirements for this. An art degree would be more hands-on whereas business may have more written essays and exams, so think about which form of work/assessment you would prefer. Good luck!

48. Adam.sg: Do you know if Exeter provides with overseas studies such as archaeology?

* Student Ambassador01: A majority of courses at Exeter do provide the opportunity to study abroad at another university for a year or a semester. As well as this, certain courses provide fieldtrips over the year. To find out about archaeology in particular, I would consult the website. Here is the link to archaeology at Exeter: www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/archaeology/arch/.

49. Tia Carmichael: I really want to take Politics Philosophy however not all unis do this joint course should I compromise my Uni choice for my course choice?

* Student Ambassador01: If studying both politics and philosophy is very important to you then I definitely would not compromise this for the sake of choosing a certain university. It is important to study what you want to and look at the universities that offer this. Liking the course is a key part of the university experience and I'm sure there will be enough universities to choose from who offer what you want to study :)

50. Joshua Chivers: I'm currently considering studying geography or sociology, would it be better to look for a placement in a red brick uni for a course in these areas?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Joshua, it really depends on what you're looking for - every uni has advantages and disadvantages. Well known universities can be good for job prospects later but most employers are looking for all the skills around your subject too

51. charlottebarker: I want to move away for university but at the same time I don't because I'm worried about how I will cope with my mental health. Do you have any advice on this matter and what support does Exeter offer for mental health?? Also so you know anyone who does medicine and what did they do to make themselves stand out because I know it's very competitive and I'm not sure how to do this when it's difficult to do any work experience or extra things because of covid-19?? Thank you

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Charlotte, Exeter has a really good support network in place. There's a wellbeing team on campus who are always there to offer guidance and support. I found skyping home quite a lot (especially at the start) really useful to ease the transition as it is a big change from school. I found talking to my flatmates really helpful as they were all in exactly the same position. I think the admissions team will take the current circumstances into account as everyone is in the same position - you could email the admissions team to ask if you feel that that would help :)

52. Adam.sg: Do know if Exeter provides overseas study for stuff such as Archaeology?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Adam, yes you can do a study abroad year with archaeology, some details are on the website here: www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/archaeology/arch/.

53. Jen Davies: I'm interested in studying languages, and I was wondering what do you think is important to consider when picking a place to study languages at?

* Student Ambassador01: Hi Jen, that's great to hear you're considering studying languages! As I study languages myself, I hope I can help! Key things to consider include: how the course is structured (i.e. how many language classes you would have a week and what these would focus on) as well as the range of culture modules on offer (these are the non-language modules on history, literature, film, linguistics etc.) If you have a particular interest in one or two of these, it might be worth choosing a university who offers the largest range of modules on that area. Certain universities are more flexible on how many languages you study and whether you can alter this during your degree, as well as whether you can take a new language as a beginner, so it might be worth looking into this too. If you do get the opportunity to attend an offer-holder day, this can be a great way to get an even better feel for the department too. Perhaps look into how many students are typically in each year of study, as this may vary from one uni to the next

54. Caitlin Wright: How useful did you find open days, do you have any suggestions as to what I could do instead due to this current situation?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Catlin, I did find them useful to narrow down my choices - hopefully they'll be running in September/October so you could visit then - check the YouTube channels of different unis as often they have campus tours/accommodation tours/talks with lecturers

55. Jessica Owens: I want to study medicine (particularly diagnostic radiography) and I was just wondering if you have any friends or know anyone studying medicine or radiography and how they are finding the course in general?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Jessica, one of my friends is studying medicine and she is really enjoying it - there's lots to learn but she loves the placements!

56. Briony: What should I look out for at open days (when I can eventually go to them!)

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Briony, I'd advise taking photos so you remember which open day was which as they all go into a blur after a few days! I'd check how close to campus the accommodation/shops are and check the facilities for your subject (labs/study space/computer rooms etc)

57. laura mo: Is there any way to get some experience of living in accommodation before choosing where to live now covid-19 has probably stopped summer school situations

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Laura, I'm not sure about this - you can see 360 degree room tours on the Exeter website to give you an idea of what the rooms look like. You could always try doing a week at home where pretend you're at uni :)

58. darceygreenland: It may sound like a silly question but courses across different universities tend to have the same/similar course name, so what is the best way to ascertain which one is best in terms of course content?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Darcey, it's hard to tell but I would say you should look at the modules listed on the website to see which one interests you more - maybe check to see if one is better for a particular career path if you know what you want to do already

59. emma: How did you choose Exeter and was it your first choice?

* Student Ambassador01: Exeter was my first choice as it happens! I picked Exeter because it was one of my favourite courses and I really liked the feel of the campus, the city and the range of societies to get involved with!

60. darceygreenland: normally on an open day you'd see example lectures and chat to uni staff to know whether a degree course is suited to you, how can we evaluate effectively if we can't make face to face conversation.....how easy is it to move courses if we make the wrong decision??

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Darcey, I know a few people who have changed courses, but it isn't always possible as the course may be full - you could email the admissions team for your department to see if you could have a phone/skype call with somebody from the department

61. Sam Shapland: What was the hardest change for you at the start of uni life?

* Student Ambassador01: For me, it was moving away from home. I always liked being at home and adapting to a new environment proved a challenge! However, perseverance definitely pays off and through getting involved with various societies and meeting new people, I gradually started to feel more and more at home. Now, three years on, I don't want to leave!

62. Caitlin Wright: I am considering taking economics in university, do you know if Exeter is good for this subject or of any other universities that are good?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Caitlin, I know Exeter has a very well regarded Business school - I'd advise looking at some of the league tables to see which others are really good

63. Sam Silburn: How much more does going to a Russel group university benefit STEM subjects over a standard university?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Sam, I think it helps as the Russell group is based on research excellence but if there is a university that you really like then I wouldn't let that put you off. Lots of great unis aren't part of the Russell group

64. Or Karny-Munoz: How much do you think poorer students should worry about financing when applying for university?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Or, universities are working really hard to help all students reach university, especially those from backgrounds where it can be more difficult to reach university. You could look into possible scholarships/grants. I kept a really detailed spreadsheet of everything I was spending when I first started to get an idea of how much I was spending - that allowed me to adjust my budget plan to fit with what I needed

65. Emily Pinn: Hi. I had a lot of university trips planned over the next few weeks, which have obviously now been cancelled and I was wondering if there was anything that you would recommend so that I can still get that knowledge that I'm now missing out on.

* Student Ambassador01: Hi Emily, I'm so sorry all your trips have been cancelled! I understand not being able to visit universities must feel like a big inconvenience, but try not to worry too much. Open days may be rescheduled for another time and if not there are other ways to find out more information on universities. As well as looking on the university websites, if you use social media, then many unis run Facebook and Instagram pages where you can find out more information on student life as well as specific courses. I would also check out YouTube as some universities upload videos, including campus tours which you may find useful to give you more of a feel for the place! Good luck with it all!

66. Harry Payton: Hi, a question about the application process for I was wondering if there was any weighting on an application, for example if someone done well in there interview it would be held at a higher regard than their A-Level results, Thanks

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Harry, this varies by subject but from my knowledge the interviews are there to see if the lectures believe you would be suitable for the course and to check that you're really interested in it - it's also a chance for you to see if you like the department. The grades are normally quite strict as the university wants you to be able to succeed in your degree so they want you to have achieved a certain level before you start. I think the interview notes are often used when students have slightly missed their offer to decide who/if they are able to take anyone else onto the course

67. Toby O'Donoghue: In terms of the benefits of being accepted to your first choice uni (confirmed accommodation etc.), is it worth applying somewhere you aren't sure of success at?

* Student Ambassador01: It is good to be ambitious, but I would be realistic at the same time. Choose the university where you would most like to go and this can definitely be somewhere to aspire to in terms of grade requirements. If you are worried about meeting the grades of your firm choice, try and choose an insurance choice with slightly lower grades and where you would still be happy to go. This may relieve some of your stress. Getting accepted into your first choice can be easier in terms of guaranteed accommodation, but many people go to their insurance choice and have no issues with accommodation etc., universities will cater for this so try not to worry too much!

68. Naomi Jenkins: What is the general view on gap years? I've heard that some unis don't like it and I was wondering if this was true for Exeter.

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Naomi, I didn't take a gap year but quite a few of my friends did, I don't think Exeter has any problem with students taking gap years

69. Connor Philp: Hello, what would you say are the advantages of living on a campus based uni?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Connor, I like the fact that everything is so close and you always bump into friends as everyone is in a similar area

70. Briony: Did you get offers from your top choices? If so, how did you choose between them, was there a specific deciding factor?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Briony, I got offers from all my choices (I applied to a range of grades so I could have a gap between my firm and insurance choices) - it was difficult to decide but it came down to the place I could see myself the most

71. Marie: How do you think one should prepare for an interview?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Marie, when I was preparing I went over what I had learnt in my A Levels so far and did some research into the subject areas that I was interested in and those that each university specialised in. I found it useful to try and think of some of the questions I might be asked and think about the answers first so I had some thoughts already

72. Giovanni Dameno: I've been at Exeter uni open day and I saw that there are so many club and societies, and a really like that, do you know if other uni is the same or it's a peculiarity of Exe uni?

* Student Ambassador01: It is very true that Exeter offers a fantastic range of societies and clubs, it is one of my favourite things about the university! Most universities offer at least some societies and clubs, though the quantity and the range can vary. If this is something that you really like, make sure to look into this at all the universities you are interested in!

73. Em Turoczy-Eggins: Hi! I would very much like to study psychology with clinical psychology and a placement year but only about 5 universities do this. They seem to be less credited than other unis that don't do this course (but still BPS accredited courses). The accommodation costs are also higher at the uni I'd like to go to that offers this course. I'm not sure whether I should compromise my course and go for a similar course elsewhere at a more credited university or if I should go for my ideal course?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Em, I know Exeter does offer an Applied Psychology (Clinical) course - it's also possible to do a BSc then choose a masters course afterwards if that would work better for you. It's important to go to a university that you feel you would enjoy studying at but you want to consider job prospects afterwards too. It's a difficult balance

74. Alice Asquith: What the accommodation like at Exeter for first years?

* Student Ambassador01: There is a lot of accommodation for first years at Exeter, on campus and off campus, catered and non-catered, en-suite or shared bathroom. All have slightly different price brackets. You can follow this link for more information: www.exeter.ac.uk/accommodation/students/prospectivestudents/.

75. Toby O'Donoghue: Will the way we all apply for uni next year be altered in anyway, because many of us are missing subject strands, work experience, all of which is normally very valued on a personal statement

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Toby, sorry I'm not sure about this. I don't believe that any decisions have been made yet as the situation is changing so quickly. I think that the situation will be taken into account as everyone will be in the same position

76. * Student Ambassador02: Hi everyone, we're getting a lot of questions at the moment - please be patient with our replies :)

77. Em Turoczy-Eggins: Also, do you have any advice for self-teaching content at the moment? I am genuinely quite worried about the grades I'll achieve due to this whole pandemic causing so many complications. Do you also think that the exam boards and universities will be lenient for year 12s and their grades due to covid-19 making us self teach or do you think we'll be overlooked as the year 13s are currently having a bigger impact?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Em, I don't know too much about the details of this but I think that the exam boards will have to take everything into account as it is an unprecedented situation. I found online tutorials helpful when I was covering topics I didn't understand - I used websites such as BBC Bitesize, Khan Academy and Isaac physics, they can be useful for science subjects

78. Sam Shapland: I really like the Penryn uni but I am not sure I will find the right course there, what's your advice?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Sam, I haven't visited the Penryn campus so can't give too much detail but I would advise looking at the modules in detail - the Penryn campus has more of a focus of conservation/the environment/marine life than the Exeter campus (very generalized statement as you can do most of those in Exeter too!) so it really depends which you are more interested in. I think the course is the most important thing as you need to enjoy what you're learning!

79. Esme Hazelden: Hi, would you suggest choosing a university based on the feel for the place or for the prestige of the course you would you to study? Thanks.

* Student Ambassador01: It is really important to choose somewhere where you think you will be happy and feel at home. The course rankings can be useful as a starting point, but ultimately I would look more at the course content and the social side of things as it is really important to choose somewhere you will enjoy spending your time!

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80. Rhiannon Vipond: Are gap years worth considering? I've looked into them but I'm still not sure what the benefits would be for me

* Student Ambassador01: Gap years can be a great option if you want to travel, save up some money by working, get more work experience or volunteer abroad, especially if you are keen to take a short break from studying. This can prove really beneficial for some people and give them more drive when they start university study. However, it is not for everyone and you may prefer to take a year study abroad during your degree (check if your course offers this option) or some people decide to travel after graduating from university. It really is a personal preference, but definitely something to consider!

81. Emily Pinn: I'm currently interested in two career options, either something health care related (not 100% sure what though) or primary school teaching, and was wondering if you have any tips on how to make a decision. Also, what are your opinions on gap years, do you think they are useful or just a waste of time?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Emily, it's a difficult decision - a gap year might be helpful to give yourself time to think. I didn't take one as I wanted to start uni straight away but lots of my friends did and found them really useful

82. Adam.sg: Do you know if any other universities do any scholars programs

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Adam, sorry I don't know if other universities do scholars programs - I believe that almost all universities will do outreach work to try and raise awareness of higher education but I don't know if the scholars program is a national program.

83. Caitlin Wright: What is the difference between a city university and a campus university?

* Student Ambassador01: A campus university consists of everything being in one place at one location, a bit like school but a lot bigger! Whereas, a city university has buildings all around the city, so not everything is in one place. For example, you may have to walk to a different street for class, or to go to the library.

84. Eleanor Collings: For the end of our Exeter scholars we were going to do a trip (I take geography) in July, do you know if this is still going ahead or whether this will be rearranged due to COVID-19?

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Eleanor, I'm not sure about this but if you email exeterscholars@exeter.ac.uk, the Scholars team should be able to answer your question

85. Giovanni Dameno: Are there any jobs on campus available for students?

* Student Ambassador01: Exeter offers part-time jobs at university outlets, including the shops, cafes and restaurants on campus and this is likely to be the case for most universities. They can be a really great option if you are interested in working alongside your studies because employers will be aware of your studies and thus allow for flexible working hours. The jobs on campus also pay very well! However, they are competitive because of this!

86. Oliver Rose: How many contact hours would you have as a first year student?

* Student Ambassador01: This completely depends on your course and should be stated in your course information. Typically, science based subjects (due to lab work etc) will have more contact hours than humanities subjects, where you are likely to be expected to do more independent study. As a rough guide, I would say between 10-15 is an average, though this may be more or less depending on your subject.

87. Caitlin Wright: I live in Exeter and was wondering if you had any idea what the best option is for me as to seeking accommodation or not if I was to apply or attend Exeter University.

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Caitlin, I have friends that live in/near Exeter that live at home and I also have friends that live in/near Exeter that live in halls so it's up to you which you'd prefer, I know that some people choose to live in halls for their first year, then move home for the subsequent years

88. Esme Hazelden: Hiya, just wondering if you would recommend choosing a university based on the reputation of the course or the feel you get for the location and premises etc.

* Student Ambassador01: where you think you will be happy and feel at home. The course rankings can be useful as a starting point, but ultimately I would look more at the course content and the social side of things as it is really important to choose somewhere you will enjoy spending your time!

89. olly latto: Hi, I would like to do a sport related course at Exeter, I know that the courses for sport are taught are a separate part of the uni.

* Student Ambassador02: Hi Olly, Sport and Exercise Science is taught at the St Luke's campus - it's only about a 30 min walk from the Streatham campus but students often visit both campuses. I don't think it has an impact on the student experience as students mix all the time, especially at society events

90. * Student Ambassador01: Thanks for all your questions, it is great to see so much engagement! We will answer all questions that have already been asked, but I'm afraid we can no longer accept any new questions. Thanks guys!

91. * Student Ambassador01: 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/.

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