

Visiting Universities in the UK.

This is essential to get a feel for the nature of universities. They vary enormously!

When? The May holiday is ideal since students are still there although they may have started exams. But other times are also possible.

Start by checking the university website for information about visit. Some websites have virtual tours which can be a good start. Find out who to contact. Make it clear that you are from a European School in Munich.

Universities arrange visits in different ways. Possible methods are:

Open days. Check to see if these coincide with your planned visits to the UK.

Campus tours. May be offered on a daily or weekly basis. Check the University website for details. Often led by students who give you a realistic appraisal of university life.

Self guided tours. Usually available from admissions offices. You collect a map and walk round at your own pace.

Visit the admissions office. These are open on weekdays and a member of the admissions staff should be able to talk to you. Sometimes, you may be seen by someone who deals with EU students. Most of you are NOT International students but may be seen by the International Office.

Departmental visits. If you contact admissions, they may suggest that you contact the department who offer the course that you are considering. It can be very helpful to visit a department but you usually need to arrange this before your visit. You can often contact departments directly.

Friends. Acquaintances. If you know somebody at a university you are considering, contact them and ask to be shown round.

What to look for.

- University. Transport to it from Munich.
- Appearance of university. Architecture. Location. Campus or city. Size.
- Location of department. Where do lectures take place? Specialist facilities?
- Accommodation. What are Halls of residence like? Where do most students live after year 1?
- Sports facilities. What is the range on offer. Pool, gyms, sports fields.
- Cultural activities; theatre, music.
- Social life. Union facilities. Have a look round. Eat there; it is usually very cheap.
- Types of students. Is there a good percentage of International/ EU students who cannot easily go home at weekends and who share more in common with you? What sort of people go there?
- Local town/ city. Have a good and critical look round. What is it like by day and night?