

Getting through Open Day

“You wouldn’t buy a car without test driving it”



University open days are usually fun and jam-packed full of activities, but getting the specific information you need is sometimes harder than expected.

Open days can be overwhelming, especially for students who are not accustomed to how big a university can be. But they are one of the most important ways to find out what a university can offer.

Swinburne’s undergraduate recruitment officer, Lauren Strathie, recommends sticking to a tight schedule and registering online for more information on the open days.

“Often there’s a couple of open days on the same day so you need to plan out your route and your map for that day and head across to them,” she said.

“You would (also) go online to register for updates, just in case anything changes or perhaps something new you might be interested in comes up at late notice.”

Future tertiary students are encouraged to attend information sessions and seminars to get the inside knowledge on courses and their lecturers.

“Go to the ones that are relevant to your courses, pick up as much collateral as you can as well as have a chat one on one (with lecturers) if you do have any specific questions,” Strathie said.

“Lecturers and facilitators are going to be present on the day, so you’ll be able to meet them and get a feel for what type of environment you’d be entering into.”

Deciding which university campus to visit on an open day is also something worth taking into consideration, Strathie said.

“Make sure the campus you’re going to is the campus that will offer the most information. For instance, Prahran is our design campus so there isn’t going to be much information on design at Hawthorn,” she said.

Strathie said it was a good idea to visit as many universities as possible but to choose the courses the student is interested in and to see which environment is most comfortable.

“It’s a great day to go through and have a look at everything. Check them all out because everyone does have different features and different teaching qualities,” she said.


First year university student, Rachel Boundy, is studying exercise and sport science at Victoria University and made sure she visited the universities that had the courses she was interested in before making any decisions.

“I went to VU and RMIT (because) they had the courses that I wanted to do. I wanted to see the facilities they had there and the kind of environment,” she said.

Boundy said she was glad she went to the open days and gained information about the courses.

“The unis are totally different so it was good going to see what the differences were and how they ran the course,” she said.

It’s never too early to start looking for a potential university; open days are not just for year 12 students; year 9 students are also encouraged to attend.

“It’s great for students as young as year 9 just to go and have a look around, to be familiar with the surroundings and the options and get thinking about what they are going to want to do when they finish year 12,” she said. 

Stephanie Bellasai

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