# Checklist for Researching and Choosing a School

## GENERAL CAMPUS

- **Campus location**  
  - Where is it located?  
  - What is the topography?  
  - What geological features are nearby?  
  - What benefits does this location offer?  
  - What restrictions does this location have?
- **Campus physical size**  
  - Is it a compact school? What are its benefits or difficulties?  
  - Is it a spacious school? What are its benefits or difficulties?
- **Campus type**  
  - Rural  
  - Suburban  
  - Urban
- **Facilities**  
  - Do their dorms look welcoming?  
  - Do their sports facilities support your interests?  
  - Do their arts facilities support your interests?  
  - Are facilities being rebuilt, added, or renewed?
- **Endowment**  
  - What is the school’s endowment?  
  - How does the school use its endowed funds?

## STUDENT BODY

- **Number of students**  
  - Is the school too big?  
  - Is the school too small?  
  - What is the diversity of the student body?
- **Percentage of boarding and day students**  
  - Is there a large boarding-student population?  
  - Is there a large day-student population?  
  - Why does this matter to you?
- **School type**  
  - Does it have a religious component?  
  - Is it a single gender school?
- **Community**  
  - Are the students able to have a work/social balance?  
  - Was your tour guide friendly?

## STUDENT LIFE

- **How does their advising system work?**
- **Dress code**  
  - Is there a school uniform?  
  - What is the dress code?
- **Dorms**  
  - Are dorms split by grade?  
  - Is there a dorm that you can see yourself living in?  
  - What is the bathroom like?  
  - Do you get to choose your roommate?  
  - How big will your dorm be?

## ADMISSIONS

- **Admissions events**  
  - Did you enjoy your Open House or Class Visit Day?  
  - Did you have a fun, informative interview?  
  - Did you connect with your tour guide?
- **Acceptance rate**  
  - How many students apply and get accepted?  
  - Does it vary by grade?  
  - How many were accepted from your area or demographic?
- **Testing**  
  - Is it required?
- **Admission deadline**  
  - Is there a priority deadline?

## FINANCIAL AID

- Can you afford the tuition at this school?  
- Is there significant financial support for students if needed?  
- Do they offer financial aid for non-tuition expenses? (Money for travel programs or a snack bar?)  
- What is the percentage of students receiving financial aid?

## ACADEMICS

- What does the daily schedule look like?  
- How many courses do they offer?  
- Do they have high level courses in subjects that you’re interested in?  
- What is the average number of years teachers have been teaching?  
- Did you meet a faculty member whom you’re excited to work with?

## CULTURE

- What is the school’s mission?  
- Does the school seem to live its mission?  
- What are the apparent values of the school?  
- Do the students seem happy? Engaged?  
- Is there access to affinity/identity groups?  
- What traditions bring the school together?  
- Is there any connection between students in different grades, or do they function fairly independently?

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Do they offer activities that you’re interested in continuing?  
- Do they offer a sports program at a level you can participate in?  
- Do they have a visual arts program at a level you can participate in?  
- Do they have a performing arts program at a level you can participate in?  
- Do they have new options for you to try?  
- Are there groups that you are excited about joining?  
- Can you start your own group?  
- Are there clubs that could support you? (affinity groups, social clubs, etc.)