# 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?

## 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?**
- **What traditions bring the school together?**
- **Is there any connection between students in different grades, or do they function fairly independently?**

## 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?**

## 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.)**