



5 Tips to Get the Most Out of OPCW Virtual Visits

1. Share your specific interests and questions with the tour host.

Even in the virtual environment, tour hosts want to address your areas of interest and answer your questions. If possible, share your interests and questions in advance of the virtual visit so the host can prepare for your desired experience. The host may be able to arrange for a conversation with you and a coach, faculty member, or current student, whether during the virtual visit or afterward. If it is not possible to submit comments or questions in advance of the virtual visit, jot down the name and email address of your visit host and contact them later.

2. In advance of the virtual visit, think about things to look for during the campus tour.

- Do the facilities, classrooms, student gathering areas, library, dining areas, workout facilities, and dorm rooms look like they will meet/exceed your needs? Did the tour cover all these areas?
- What bonus attractions are on this campus that you have not seen elsewhere?
- Where is the college in relationship to the community in which it is located? If the college is an urban area, what kind of neighborhood is it? If the college is in a rural area, how far away is the biggest urban area? Does that matter to you? How might the campus location impact your transportation needs and/or evening and weekend activities?

3. Like people, each college has a personality. Be on the lookout for clues about the college's culture and uniqueness.

As you experience each virtual visit, consider how the college's personality is different than that of other college tours you have taken. Does it have a strong focus on academics, athletics, arts and culture, community engagement, religion, etc.? How does the college's personality align with or diverge from your own? Does the college like the right "fit" for you?



4. Think about any connections you have to the college and reach-out to those individuals for additional information.

Do you, a family member, or a friend know an alum of the college? Do you, a family member, or a friend know a current student? Do you, a family member, or a friend know someone who works at the institution? Reach out to these individuals to discuss their experiences pre- or post your virtual tour. If you don't know anyone who has a connection to the college, contact the Admissions Office and ask if someone there can introduce you to a student, alum, faculty member, or staff member.

5. Ask someone to “join you.”

Choosing the right college for you means looking at all aspects of the institution and comparing it to your needs. Having a parent, sibling, friend, or mentor “join you” for the virtual visits will help you observe and hear more than one perspective. If your parent, sibling, friend, or mentor can't physically be next to you during a virtual visit or isn't available at the same dates/times as you, you can each register for the session that works best for your schedules! When you've completed your virtual visits, be sure to compare notes to aid in your final analysis.