

What's trending in campus? Students & parents make most of Open Days before making a choice

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Bengaluru: Demo classes, a guided tour of the campus, and shaking hands with lecturers and more — an Open Day is how students select colleges now. Several top colleges in the city have started organising Open Days—a day when prospective students and their parents can walk into their campuses and understand the system before deciding on admissions there.

"The Open House is an opportunity for students and parents to come and palpably imagine their future at our university. It gives them a textured sense of our community and campus. The demo classes also form a window into the pedagogic philosophy of the university," said the spokesperson of the National Law School of

India University (NLSIU).

The students attend demo classes on history, politics, economics, sociology and anthropology, conducted by NLSIU faculty. In a guided campus tour, they interact with members of the NLS community and gain insights into university life.

At Azim Premji University (APU), Open Days include detailed sessions about the programmes, curriculum, and unique aspects such as occupational and research opportunities. Apart from faculty interaction, the sessions address queries about admissions, financial assistance and selection processes.

V Manikandan, associate director, admissions and placements, APU, said many participants travel from other cities to attend Open Days. "APU is expanding its outreach efforts by hosting 'Meet Us' sessions and Open Days in cities like Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi. These sessions are designed to make the university accessible to a wider audience and provide interaction and engagement similar to on-campus events. However, a full campus experience, including tours and in-depth faculty interactions, is unique to the on-campus Open Day events," he said.

Christ deemed-to-be-university hosts Open Day virtually for students from other cities. Around 150 students and parents attended their virtual Open Day this year, said Anil Pinto, registrar of the university.

On campus, the visitors are welcomed at various stalls from all departments, which are manned by students. Not only do they get to know about the programme, facilities, and resources, but the Open Day also promises tailored guidance for students on the programmes they should choose.

BOX

IISc's outreach sees 80k footfall

The concept of allowing the public into the campus could have begun with the Indian Institute of Science's Open Day, which is a community outreach programme to foster interest in science among the public. The programme has a footfall of 80,000 people now, with people walking into various demos, exhibitions and experiments, showcasing science and engineering concepts in fun and engaging ways that spark curiosity in students and enable them to interact with researchers directly in an informal setting. It does not, however, have any link to admissions.