# **Program Research**

The following pages are a framework to help you gather information and make a well informed decision. It consists of two worksheets: The first contains prompts to guide your research. Fill out a separate sheet for each unique program you are considering. The second sheet is a decision matrix- Pick out the values that matter most to you from your research and assign each program a total score.

## Research Prompt Sheet (Example)

Complete a research prompt sheet for every program you are considering. Through this research, identify and highlight several important decision factors.

**Name of Program:** *Life Sciences at Queen’s University*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| What courses will I take?  *Highlight courses:*  *BIO102/103: Cell biology and molecular genetics, lab work 25% of grade*  *CHEM112: Intro chem, review from high school, full year. Favourite subject* | Where will I live?  *>90% first year students living in residence, directly on campus. Full meal plan on campus. Will live with peers, easier to make friends. Living with my peers will make my transition out of home much easier.* | What is the city (home for several years) like?  *Kingston: Pop. 123,178 suburban city. University town: Student community a large presence, lots of restaurants, cafes, hangout spots. More confined than a big city. I prefer a smaller university to a commuter school.* |
| How far away from home will I be, and how often do I plan to visit?  *Out-of-province. Expensive plane tickets mean I will only visit during winter and summer holidays. I want to stay reasonably close to home.* | How much will my entire education cost (including housing)?  *Tuition: ArtSci tuition is $666.91/3 units, I need 120 units, total $26652.40 over 4 years*  *Housing: Residence: ~14,000/year x 4 years, total $56,000*  *In total, around $80,000* | How will I pay for my tuition and housing?  *Parents will support me with RESP fund. I will apply for a Work-Study permit which can grant me $2000 a year. I can also apply annually for a Queen’s General Bursary.*  *I am out of province, so I need to find out where I can get federal student loans from.* |
| What do I expect to do when I graduate? (Talk to someone who does this!)  *Plan A: Start med school.*  *Plan B: Apply for med school, complete a Master’s degree in chemistry.*  *The Life Sci degree offers an internship option.* | What will I do in my free time?  *I like going to the gym: Students get full gym membership to pool and 7-floor facility.* | What are the school’s values and culture like? *Tight-knit community- All students live closely together on campus. High levels of extra-curricular involvement. I really like being involved at school.* |
| Who will I know in this program/school/city?  *Mom has a coworker whose daughter attends Queen’s as a Political Science Major, I will get to know her this summer.* | What is one extra-curricular activity I would like to join?  *Enjoyed Model UN in high school, I will join QMUN or Queen’s Model Parliament (QMP).* | Who can I ask about their experience in this program/school/city?  *My physics teacher attended Queen’s, I will ask her about living in the city of Kingston and about school values.* |
| What do I expect from this program? Who can confirm these expectations?  *To prepare me to write the MCATs and give me a great foundation to enter med school. It should be a respectable school that will help my application. I will reach out to a Life Sci Queen’s Alumni by contacting the department assistant.* | What about this program excites me?  *I was really involved in extra-curriculars during high school and I will be surrounded by people who are just like me.* | Is there anything else I want to know?  *I am a visible minority. Is Queen’s focused on providing an inclusive and diverse school environment?*  *What success rate do Queen’s Life Science students have when applying to med school? Does the school have a good reputation?* |

## Decision Matrix (Example)

Translate the important factors highlighted in your program research sheets into this table and score each institution on the same factors.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **School/Program:** | Queen’s | | U of T | | UBC | | Western | | Waterloo | | McGill | |
| V: Value | **(S)core (1-10)** | **Total**  **(S x I)** | **Score (1-10)** | **Total**  **(S x I)** | **Score (1-10)** | **Total**  **(S x I)** | **Score (1-10)** | **Total (S x I)** | **Score (1-10)** | **Total (S x I)** | **Score (1-10)** | **Total**  **(S x I)** |
| I: Importance (1-3) |
| V: Student Life | 10 | 10 x 1 = 10 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 8 |
| I: 1 |
| V: Quality of Extra-curriculars | 8 | 8 x 2 = 16 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 6 | 12 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| I: 2 |
| V: Living accommodations | 7 | 7 x 1 = 5 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 6 |
| I: 1 |
| V: Close to family | 1 | 1 x 3 = 2 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 18 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| I: 2 |
| V: Tuition cost/Financial aid | 6 | 6 x 3 = 18 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 15 | 7 | 21 |
| I: 3 |
| V: Co-op Program | 4 | 4 x 3 = 12 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 15 | 3 | 9 | 10 | 30 | 3 | 6 |
| I: 3 |
| V: Reputation | 10 | 10 x 1 = 10 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| I: 1 |
| Total |  | 73 |  | 43 |  | 67 |  | 45 |  | 68 |  | 58 |