# Choosing the right college

Catherine Fletcher of the Royal National College for the Blind in Hereford offers 10 tips to school leavers planning to move into further education.

## Top tips!

1. Visit all the colleges that you are interested in, including your local mainstream college. Open days can be a great opportunity to see what student life is like.
2. Speak to students already at the college and ask them what it’s like to be there.
3. Check how much experience the college has in delivering courses to young people who are blind or partially sighted.
4. When choosing a course, ask questions such as: will the course help me achieve my personal goals? What are the entry requirements?
5. Look at the recreational, sporting and leisure activities available in the evening and at weekends.
6. Ask if there is a programme to develop your mobility, daily living skills and independence.
7. Check if the college is well equipped with computers with speech and magnification software and braille technology.
8. Look at the accommodation available. If it's a specialist residential college, will there be support staff? Can family and friends stay at the weekends?
9. Explore the local area, and check how accessible the shops and transport services are.
10. You can obtain more information on specialist residential colleges by contacting NATSPEC [www.natspec.org.uk](http://www.natspec.org.uk)

For more advice about choosing a college email cypf@rnib.org.uk or contact the RNIB helpline on 0303 123 999.

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