## Research Prompt Sheet

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

**Name of Program: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| What courses will I take? | Where will I live? | What is the city (home for several years!) like? |
| How far away from home will I be, and how often do I plan to visit? | How much will my tuition and housing cost? | How will I pay for my tuition and housing? |
| What do I expect to do when I graduate? (Talk to someone who does this!) | What will I do in my free time? | What are the school’s values and culture like? |
| Who will I know in this program/school/city? | What is one extra-curricular activity I would like to join? | Who can I ask about their experience from this program/school/city? |
| What do I expect from this program? Who can confirm these expectations? | What about this program excites me? | Is there anything else I want to know? |

## Debriefing the Research Prompt Sheet

Collate any lingering questions or answers you could not find from your research here.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Questions I still have about this program | Where can I find this information? |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

## Decision Matrix

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **School/Program:** |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| 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: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I: |
| V: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I: |
| V: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I: 1 |
| V: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I: |
| V: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I: |
| V: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I: |
| V: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I: |
| Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Debriefing the Decision Matrix

The program with the highest total score should theoretically align with your decision factors the most, but sometimes the numbers can give you unexpected results. Use the following questions to consider your reaction to these results and determine how you will interpret the numbers.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What was your immediate reaction to these results? |  |
| Are these results the same as you expected? |  |
| Were you disappointed by these results? |  |
| Will these results affect your decision? If so, how? |  |