Interview Best Practices for International Students

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Part I: Interviews: What to expect and how to prepare

Part II: Discussion Panel
Three Common Types of Interviews:

• Behavioral Interviews
  Are you a good fit for this position?

• Technical Interviews
  Do you have the technical skills needed for this position?

• Case Interviews
  Can you demonstrate your skills by posing a solution to a real-world problem or scenario?
Interviews: What to Expect

What is an interviewer evaluating?
Are you a good fit for the job?

- Relevant skills
- Communication style
- Knowledge about the position and the employer
Common Interview Questions

1) Tell me about yourself

2) Tell me about a time when you had to...

3) Why are you interested in this position?

4) Do you have questions for us?
1) Tell me about yourself

What this question is **not** asking you to do:

- Tell your life story
- Repeat your resume
- Talk about the details of your personal life
1) Tell me about yourself

What this question is asking you to do:

• Situate yourself: Where are you now?
• Highlight your most relevant skills and experiences for the position
• Summarize your big-picture fit for the job
My name is Joe Smith. I went to College at Oxford University. After college I worked at a small business in their IT department. After that job, I worked for a large hospital as part of their data analysis team. Then I decided to get a Master’s degree in Data Analytics at the University of Chicago. Right now I’m looking for a job in data analytics after I graduate in the summer.
My name is Joe Smith. I’m currently a Master’s students in Data Analytics at the University of Chicago. I have developed my skills in data analysis over several years working at both small businesses and a large hospital, where I helped the hospital to develop an improved system for patient referrals. I have expertise in programming languages and statistical methods and I enjoy working in teams. I am interested in this position because I want to apply my skills in data analysis to help County Hospital improve their patient services.
Common Interview Questions

Tell me about a time when you had to....

...work with a difficult co-worker.

...persuade someone to change their mind about something.

...overcome a challenge.

...demonstrate leadership.

...use teamwork to solve a problem.
Common Interview Questions

The STAR Method

**Situation:** Describe the situation you were in. It must be a specific situation, not a general one.

**Task:** What was your goal in this situation?

**Action:** What action did you take to accomplish this goal?

**Result:** What was the result of the action you took to accomplish this goal?
Tell me about a time when you had to speak in front of a large group.
STAR Method Answer

Last year I gave a presentation to my classmates on marketing effectiveness through social media. After researching the topic, I created a presentation using PowerPoint about my findings, and presented to a group of about 25 people. My classmates learned how to track the marketing effectiveness of social media tools like Facebook and Twitter in interactions with consumers.
Common Interview Questions

Why are you interested in this position?

The interviewer wants to know not just why you are interested in the type of work, but why you are interested in position itself and the company you will work at.
Common Interview Questions

Do you have questions for us?

Always prepare at least four questions to ask the interviewer.

What are good questions?

- Questions that show your curiosity to learn more about specific aspects of the position and the company
- Questions that build on what you already know about the company

What are less effective questions?

- Questions that have a yes/no answer.
- Questions that are negative or critical.
- Questions about salary
Follow-Up

Within a day of the interview, send an email to each person who interviewed you. Thank them for the opportunity to interview and mention one detail about the interview. Re-emphasize your interest in the position.
Thank you!

Questions:

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