

How To Prepare For An Interview

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Shuming is a Master of Finance student who has participated in four interviews for co-op. She has some interesting ideas to share on how to prepare for an interview.

1 LEARN ABOUT THE COMPANY

Yahoo Finance: Remember two figures- the current stock price and the market cap. (I have never encountered this question but one of my friends have)

Company website: What does this company do? What are the company's products? What is the company culture? Any important news (for example, M&A)?

LinkedIn: Go to the company page to check the recent events. For example, try to learn about the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. It might help you with answering the interview question, "why do you want to work for this company"?

2 GATHER MORE INFORMATION FOR THE INTERVIEW

The best way to learn about the position and the company is talk to someone who has worked there. You can do it in LinkedIn or in other ways.

Connect with someone who works in the same position: Ask them about the job, the company and the interview.

Check your interviewer's LinkedIn profile: Learn more about what you might encounter in this position and get to know your interviewer.

Be creative and ask for help: If you have any questions about the job description, you can try to be creative and reach out to anyone you think may be able to help. For example, the co-ordinator, someone who worked in the same position but at a different company. Take myself as an example, I got an interview from an engineering company but the job description says I should have access to a vehicle. I do not have a driver's license and I thought I would not get the job. But the co-ordinator told me that this was just a recommendation and I still had a chance.

3 BE FAMILIAR WITH YOUR RESUME AND EXPERIENCE

It is likely that the interviewer will ask you questions on your past experience especially relevant experience and your most recent experience.

To be prepared to tell my story, I will usually try to answer these three questions for each of my experiences:

1. What was my motivation to be in that position?
2. What did I do?
3. What did I learn?

4 COMMON BEHAVIOURAL QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT BE ASKED ARE:

- Self-introduction
- Why this company, why this position, why are you a good fit
- Your strengths, your weaknesses
- A mistake you made at work
- Leadership experience
- Greatest accomplishment

5 PREPARING FOR TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

This part depends on the job description - definitely learn about the technical skills mentioned in the job description (use YouTube). If you want to prepare further you can go to Glassdoor to search for interview questions.

Tip: Try to search 'interview questions on xxx (position, for example, Investment Banking)' using google.

6 LAST BUT NOT LEAST, IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE YOURSELF IN AN INTERVIEW!

Be relaxed and have a nice conversation. Be confident! You do not need to pretend to fit in the culture that you do not like – **you deserve an enjoyable working atmosphere.**

