

Typical interview questions

Are you going for an interview with industry and are looking for some tips? We've put together a few of them:

Tips:

1. Bring copies of your resume and publications with you.
2. Attire should be top grade – suit for men and suit/formal dress for women.
3. Arrive at the company location at least 20 minutes before the interview. Plan to leave the hotel accordingly and keep room for unexpected delays e.g., weather or traffic delays.
4. Greet the interviewer by his or her proper name (Dr./Mr. Brown, not Bob), shake hands, and make eye contact. Know how to pronounce the interviewer's name.
5. Study the company's website before the interview.
6. Be positive and show enthusiasm.
7. Listen to the interviewer carefully, let her/him finish, and take your time to think before answering. Don't blurt out answers while the interviewer is talking.
8. Be polite and specific with your answers.
9. Thank the interviewer for taking time to meet with you.

Questions that a candidate may get asked:

1. Could you tell me about yourself?
2. Your work in your thesis is in Topic A. Would you be willing to work on Topic B?
3. Would you be open to relocating if our company needs shift?
4. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
5. Do you want to become a manager?
6. Could you discuss your strengths?
7. Could you discuss your weaknesses?
8. Have you worked in a team?
9. What do you think about teamwork?
10. Tell me about a difficult problem that you faced in the last year. How did you handle it?
11. Are you willing to travel/relocate?

Some questions that you could ask:

1. What are the main fields of commercial activity of the company?

2. What are the company expansion plans?
3. What are the growth opportunities?
4. What kind of work would I do in this position?
5. Do you have an employee stock-ownership plan?

Employee qualities that companies are looking for:

1. Openness/flexibility in work area
2. Ability to learn new things on your own
3. Self-motivation
4. Self-starter
5. Problem-solving skills
6. Result orientation
7. Leadership/team skills
8. Communication skills

Best wishes for your interview!

The RPI Career Development Center (CDC) has created the *Career Navigator Handout Series* with more career-related tips.