**A step-by-step placement guide**

This article is for the B.Tech. Students who are currently in their final year or pre-final year, and also applicable to the candidates who need are Aiming to be placed in an IT Company.

I got an opportunity to give interviews with the companies such as Google, Informatica, Airbus, Qualcomm, Synopsys, Cognizant, TCS, Zoho, Gainsight, Accenture, Jio, Franklin Templeton, EnH-iSecure, Wiley, LTI, Persistent Systems, etc  
I got selected by companies such as Informatica, Synopsys, Cognizant, Zoho, Gainsight, Wiley, LTI, Jio, etc.

I hope my experience with these companies might help others to Crack or prepare for their interviews. I will share my placement (on campus and off campus) experience along with the sources and Roadmap.

* [Aptitude and puzzles](https://bhargava.me/step-by-step-placement-guide/#apitude-puzzles)
* [Coding](https://bhargava.me/step-by-step-placement-guide/#coding)
* [CS Fundamentals](https://bhargava.me/step-by-step-placement-guide/#cs-fundamentals)
* [Projects](https://bhargava.me/step-by-step-placement-guide/#projects)
* [Build Your Resume](https://bhargava.me/step-by-step-placement-guide/#resume)
* [Internships](https://bhargava.me/step-by-step-placement-guide/#internships)
* [Apply for Companies](https://bhargava.me/step-by-step-placement-guide/#off-campus)
* [Interview Preparation](https://bhargava.me/step-by-step-placement-guide/#interviews)

**Aptitude & Puzzles:**

Many Companies have the Aptitude round as the first and mandatory round of the Placement Process.  
Companies wanted to know your Accuracy, Problem Solving skills. Not just for IT Companies it many other Exams Such as GATE, GMAT, CAT, etc has this Aptitude.  
So in order to crack the first round, practice aptitude – Solve at least 4 new Aptitude questions a day.  
Also, solve some puzzles that can help you to improve critical thinking and crack HR interviews.

*Suggested Sites:*

* [*Aptitude by GeeksforGeeks*](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/placements-gq/)
* [*IndiaBIX*](https://www.indiabix.com/aptitude/questions-and-answers/)
* [*FacePrep*](https://www.faceprep.in/quantitative-aptitude/)
* [*Aptitude by 5 Min Engineering*](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYwpaL_SFmcBpa1jwpCbEDespCRF3UPE5)
* [*Puzzles By MindYourDecisions*](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDZcGqoKA84GZXo_6e4v_gKf7u4UcNgRl)

**Coding:**

This is one of the most important rounds. Before anything else, you need to pick a programming language (preferably C++, Java, or Python) for your coding round and interviews. I do support learning and writing code in different programming languages. But when it comes to the programming interview preparation, I feel it’s important to choose one language to focus your prep on and get to know it very well. Pick up a language you have worked with and you are confident with! Do Competitive programming on sites such as Codechef, Codeforces, and also Hiring Challenges on HackerEarth.

Learn and understand the following data structures and Solve coding questions on them:

*Arrays, Strings, Searching, Sorting, Hashing, Stack, Queue, Linked List, Recursion, Backtracking, Tree, BST, Heap or priority queue, Graphs, Greedy, Dynamic programming, Trie*

Solve coding questions on websites like Leetcode, GeeksforGeeks, Codechef, Hackerrank, etc.  
I personally prefer Leetcode. Practice coding questions every day, and maintain that consistency.

Apart from practicing coding, many organizations do conduct Hiring challenges or Hackathons by which they hire candidates. They can be found on the sites such as [HackerEarth](https://www.hackerearth.com/jobs/) and [Unstop](https://unstop.com/hiring-challenges)

*Suggested Source:*

* [*Leetcode*](https://leetcode.com/problemset/all/)
* [*Most asked 450 Coding Questions*](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FMdN_OCfOI0iAeDlqswCiC2DZzD4nPsb/view)
* [*C++ & DSA by Apna College*](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfqMhTWNBTe0b2nM6JHVCnAkhQRGiZMSJ)
* [*GeeksforGeeks*](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/must-do-coding-questions-for-companies-like-amazon-microsoft-adobe/)
* [*Article on Medium*](https://medium.com/coderbyte/complete-step-by-step-guide-on-how-to-start-coding-for-placement-preparation-20e92d9c05ee)
* [*Github resource*](https://github.com/anushka23g/Complete-Placement-Preparation)
* [*Aditya Verma – YT*](https://www.youtube.com/c/AdityaVermaTheProgrammingLord)

**CS Fundamentals:**

Apart from coding questions, some concepts related to **DBMS(SQL), Operating Systems, DSA, OOPs, and Computer Networks** will be asked in the Technical Assessment and Interviews. Remember that fundamentals are the most important for a fresher and the companies do expect that. Don’t be a ***Jack of all, master of none.***When you learn it, put all your efforts to understand and finish it 100%.

I suggest you take the free course – [CS50 by Havard university on Edx](https://www.edx.org/course/introduction-computer-science-harvardx-cs50x)  
For a better understanding of Data Structures and Algorithms, suggest you take this Algorithm course by [Adul Bari on Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDN4rrl48XKpZkf03iYFl-O29szjTrs_O).

*Suggested Source:*

* [*GeeksforGeeks*](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/most-asked-computer-science-subjects-interview-questions-in-amazon-microsoft-flipkart/)
* [*JennyLecture – YT*](https://youtu.be/e0E6-dRPcJA)
* [*OOPs by Anuj*](https://youtu.be/a199KZGMNxk)
* [*OS by CodeHelper*](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDzeHZWIZsTr3nwuTegHLa2qlI81QweYG)
* [*SQL by GateSmashers*](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxCzCOWd7aiHqU4HKL7-SITyuSIcD93id)
* [*CN by Neso Academy*](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBlnK6fEyqRgMCUAG0XRw78UA8qnv6jEx)

**Projects:**

Projects are good to have on your resume. Projects in your resume serve as proof of your capabilities. They help the employer determine whether you are the right candidate for the job. Presenting them well can improve your chances of getting hired.

It is suggested to have at least 2 projects on your resume. Make sure you do a project by yourself; Even a simple project that is done by yourself is enough to go with.

Add your Academic, Internship (mini and major), or Personal projects to your Resume. Don’t worry, if you are not from a CS and Related branch, you can add the project that you did in your respective field. It shows your potential to the recruiter.

*Suggested Sources:*

* [*LearnCodeOnline by Hitesh Choudary*](https://learncodeonline.in/) *– Learn any Tech Stack for your Project*
* [*Freecodecamp*](https://www.youtube.com/c/Freecodecamp)
* [*Projects by Codementor*](https://www.codementor.io/projects)
* [*Guide to Add projects in your resume by Indeed*](https://in.indeed.com/career-advice/resumes-cover-letters/projects-in-resume)

**Build your Resume:**

Resume Building doesn’t mean making your resume. It means working on the things that you put on your resume. Imagine that Your resume contains only the Basic Details and Education. Your resume looks empty to the recruiter. The fact is that most of the recruiters view the candidate’s resume for a few seconds and decide on the further process. So, in order to make the recruiter understand you, Add the things that you have done during the academics or apart from the academics.

The sections that you may include in your resume are:

1. Basic Details (Name, Email, Phone, Location, Objective, etc)
2. Education
3. Experience (Internships)
4. Skills
5. Projects
6. Courses/Certifications
7. Achievements (optional)
8. Interests (optional)
9. Languages (optional)

Refer to this [Article by Zety](https://zety.com/in/blog/resume-for-freshers) for your resume building.

Make sure your resume is not more than 2 pages, Use dark color for text and light color for background, as many recruiters prefer a printed copy of the resume rather than a digital copy. It is recommended to modify your resume based on the role (off-campus) you are applying for.

I searched all over the internet for the best resume builder, I finally found [FlowCV.io](https://flowcv.com/) which has almost every feature and section that is needed for building a perfect resume, even my current resume is built using it.

*Sources:*

* [*FlowCV – Resume Maker*](https://flowcv.com/)
* [*Novo Resume Builder*](https://novoresume.com/)
* [*Video by Urban Fight*](https://youtu.be/y8YH0Qbu5h4)

**Internships:**

I did my internship at Synopsys as a Technical Engineer Intern, I applied for this internship on their career portal.

An internship gives an opportunity to work on real-time projects and gain new skills. Interns not only gain technical knowledge within the industry of their choice, but they also learn how to interact with professionals in a workplace setting, and develop essential soft skills like time management, organization, adaptability, problem-solving, and teamwork. Many companies prefer to hire candidates who have done internships, Some companies give full-time opportunities after the successful completion of their internship.   
So if you have done any internship make sure you add that to your resume, Be aware of companies that provide you internship certificates for money where the candidate pays them. Instead, look for internships where you will be getting paid and in a recognized organization.

If you have good projects, and skills and looking for an internship you may visit [Cuvette.tech](https://www.cuvette.tech/) and LinkedIn.

*Sources:*

* [Cuvette.tech](https://www.cuvette.tech/)
* [Unstop Internships](https://unstop.com/internships)
* [AngelList](https://angel.co/jobs)

**Apply for Companies:**

This section mainly focuses on off-campus placements. Remember that it is very easy to get placed on an On-campus placement, as the rounds and the competition is very less. On off-campus placements, there is a huge competition and filtering is done in order to shortlist for further process, Most of the companies that I got placed are off-campus, including Informatica, Synopsys, Zoho, etc, There is a lot of competition, there will be thousands of people applying for a job and only a few people (single digit) will get selected.  So, it is suggested to work hard to get placed on on-campus placements. If you have not placed in a desired company or CTC, then you can try off-campus placements.

If you hold an internship with a good company, Ask your employer to convert you to full-time, else you can apply to the companies individually. There are a lot of websites that list out jobs for the freshers, Yet I’ve shortlisted some of them.

You may apply for jobs from the below-given job portals:

* [LinkedIn Jobs](https://in.linkedin.com/jobs)
* [FirstNaukari](https://www.firstnaukri.com/)
* [Unstop Jobs](https://unstop.com/jobs)
* [Indeed](https://in.indeed.com/)

If you are interested in a particular company, keep checking their career portal for any openings, You may also connect to people on LinkedIn and also for their referral.

**Interview Preparation:**

Interviews can be Technical+Coding or HR+Managerial. Most Companies conduct Technical interviews and HR interviews. Before heading into the interview preparation, you should consider what questions might be asked about technical methods and skills, and be prepared to demonstrate knowledge of things like writing code. Many interviewers tend to ask you for puzzles to test your critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

In every interview, whether it can be TR or HR, there will be a common question that is ***Introduce yourself.***The question seems to be quite simple yet it is the most important question, it tells you what actually you are, further questions will be based on your introduction. So, I advise you to know yourself and do a rehearsal on the introduction.

An example of an introduction: *Good Morning Ma’am, My Name is Bhargava, Am from Warangal, I will be completing my bachelor’s degree in CS from Mahatma Gandhi Institue of Technology in July 2022. Am currently doing my Internship with Synopsys. I am certified in XYZ and skilled at ABC. I have worked on a wide variety of projects that have allowed me to put what I’ve learned in the classroom and my Projects helped around 300k+ students. My moto is to bridge the gap between my knowledge of technology and its use for the betterment of the commons.*

**Technical Round (TR):**

This round includes things like Questions Related to CS fundamentals and coding challenges. Make sure you brush up on the concepts that you have learned before. Make a search on google about the interview experiences by others and prepare accordingly. Make sure that you are confident in everything that is on your resume, It can e Skills, Projects, or Experiences. Most of the interview questions are based on your resume. So before attending the interview don’t forget to scan your resume once.

**HR |  Managerial Interview:**

In most companies, HR Round is the final one. If you perform well in this round, you will get selected. This interview is very easy to crack, but you should remember a few points:

1. **Know more about the Company:**Before the interview make sure you are aware of that company, It is good if you know what Technologies they are working on, their history, achievements, and also Get some positive points about that company.
2. **Be Confident**
3. **Use STAR Method:**Most product-based companies expect the answers in ***STAR technique – situation, task, action & result****.* You may Read this [Article by Carrus.io](https://www.carrus.io/blog/star-method) to know more about it
4. **Never Disclose your interest in higher education:** This is the mistake that I made in my first ever interview with EnHiSecure. I have been told that if I get a good rank in GATE I prefer to join IITs, I got rejected for saying this. So, even if you have plans to pursue higher education, don’t mention it during the interview.
5. **Say YES to everything:**Never Say NO even if you are not interested, HR or TR will ask you a few questions regarding Role, Salary, Location, Bond, etc. In order to get selected, you should agree to what they ask and say YES.

Sources:

* [Technical Interview Playlist by Utsav](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJBO5eOxvWcAytirt2nBWvFyZogOFm-wA)
* [TR Tips by Jenny](https://youtu.be/e0E6-dRPcJA)
* [TR interview guide by GFG](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/get-started-technical-interviews/)
* [HR Interview Questions by Hitesh](https://youtu.be/CNJLHe77EAo)
* [HR interview Tips by Uran Fight](https://youtu.be/Ji46s5BHdr0)

That’s all, this is the end of this article, I hope this helped you, If you have any questions or doubts you may ask in the comment section. Please share your thoughts, suggestions, or any resources.

Few other Sources:

* [4th-year placement Roadmap](https://whimsical.com/4th-year-roadmap-to-dream-placement-WB2HTZixtsohXoDcvr6Me7)
* [IT Skills directory](https://edu.zo3.in/lrs/skills.php)