Preparing for Technical Interviews

The Technical Interview will explore your level of technical expertise/knowledge. Give examples from your coursework, academic technical projects, independent personal projects, github account, work experience, online certifications or use of online technical platforms.

Before the Interview: Ask for advice from the recruiter.

Find out about the structure of the interview. Many large companies issue a guide to candidates. They want you to perform well. If this is not provided it is ok to ask the recruiter if there is anything specific that you should prepare.

Find out if there are specific coding tasks, technologies that will be explored in the Interview. Refresh your knowledge in these technologies.

Review your CV: What have you already told them?

What specific technologies skills have you included in your CV? If you have included them in your CV, they are likely to be the reason that you were called for interview and you are likely to be asked about them.

Refresh your knowledge on basic concepts in these technology skills (often for graduate positions the questions may be some minor concept that you learned in Year 1 of your course and you may have forgotten about it).

Review your Academic Technical Projects

Remember, while you are being asked technical questions there may be non-technical interviewers on the panel. Describing your project and its purpose in an interesting manner, at the start, will keep non-technical interviewers engaged. Make sure you can answer these questions:

- Can you explain clearly what your technical project/ application was about?
- What was the inspiration for the project? Where did you get the idea from?
- What was the functionality of the project? What could the Owner / Manager of the project do? What could the Users do? What were the benefits to the User of this application?
- What technologies did you use? Why did you use these technologies?
- What problems did you encounter and how did you approach solving them? (Use STAR)
- If you were unable to solve the problem, what did you learn from that experience?
- If you were starting that project again what would you do differently?

Review your Technical Work Experience: Use STAR

Draw on your work experience to demonstrate how you solved a specific technical problem in work.

- Describe the problem clearly and succinctly. What was your approach to researching the solution?
- What technical platforms do/did you use to learn how to implement a solution?
- Did you collaborate with a team? Always be clear about what your role in the solution was, especially if it was a team project

- Use examples of independent learning/online technical certifications to demonstrate your approach to problem solving
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Technical Interview - The Coding Test - Tips

Before you start to Code:

- Ask - Check your understanding of the technical task with the Interviewer
- Tell - Outline any assumptions you are making about the task
- Think - Plan your approach to solving the technical problem
- Talk - As you start to code explain what you are doing and why

The Purpose is not the code but that the Interviewer understand your approach to technical problem Solving

Mathematical/ Logical Problem Solving

Very occasionally applicants are asked guesstimate questions to assess skills in logic or to see their response to a curveball (random) question. The correct answer is not the purpose of the question.

Examples of these questions are:

- How many footballs can you fit into an airplane?
- How many Windows are there in Dublin?
- How many Hair Salons are there in Ireland?

Tips to answer this type of question:

- Check your understanding of the task and clarify your assumptions i.e. What type of Airplane? Are the Footballs inflated? Are the balls in the cabin and the hold?
- Use Basic Arithmetic and a Step by Step approach.
- Talk through your approach to calculating the answer.

See more examples of Interview brainteasers here:
http://www.ibankingfaq.com/category/interviewing-brainteasers/

Talk to us:

- NCI Careers Advisors do not carry out mock technical interviews as every company has a different approach to a technical interview.
- Careers Advisors do, however, collect feedback from students who have interviewed with companies.
- Check with your Careers Advisor before going for interview
- Please give your Careers Advisor feedback of your experience of interviews with companies.