

## Informational Interview Form

### General Information

Your Name:	Mohammad Nayef Abou Ali	Date:	12 July 2025
Employee's Name:	Dr. Ahmad El Hajj	Position:	Cardiologist
Company:	Beirut Arab University Hospital (BAUH)		

### Informational Interview Questions

Informational Interview Questions	Responses
What do you do? What are your job duties/functions/responsibilities?	I specialize in diagnosing and treating heart and vascular conditions. I conduct patient assessments, interpret EKGs, perform and review echocardiograms, and develop treatment plans. I also supervise residents and coordinate with surgical and ICU teams for critical cases.
Why did this type of work interest you, and how did you get started with your career?	I was fascinated by cardiovascular physiology during med school. After excelling in the cardiology module, I developed a deep passion for heart-related pathology and its real-life implications. This led me to pursue it as a career path.
What type of education and training prepared you for this career field?	I completed my medical degree, followed by a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in cardiology. I also pursued certifications in ACLS, EKG interpretation, and cardiac imaging.
How did you get your job? What jobs and experiences led you to your present position?	After my fellowship, I worked at multiple hospitals, building clinical experience and eventually joining the cardiology department at BAUH. I maintained active involvement in research and teaching.
Does your work relate to any experiences or studies you had in college?	Yes. The foundation was laid during my cardiology modules and rotations. My undergraduate exposure to ECGs, case studies, and cardiology rounds helped bridge academic and real-world experiences.
What challenges did you have to overcome to get to your position?	The long hours and pressure during medical school, passing the USMLE and fellowship interviews, and managing stress in high-stakes environments were major challenges.

What do you look for in a quality employee?	Dedication, empathy, and strong interpersonal and problem-solving skills. The ability to communicate under pressure is also critical.
What personal qualities do you believe contribute most to being successful in your job?	Attention to detail, composure, teamwork, and resilience. You need emotional intelligence to handle patients and staff under stress.
What skills or talents are essential to being effective in your job?	Analytical thinking, clinical judgment, and hands-on diagnostic skills like auscultation and interpreting tests. Communication is equally important.
What are the types of entry-level positions that your company typically hires?	We hire medical interns, nurses, medical assistants, and admin staff in cardiology units or clinics.
What are the typical entry-level job functions?	Monitoring vital signs, assisting with EKGs and stress tests, updating records, and managing appointments.
Do you think there are some entry-level tasks in your area of work that I would be able to do if I were to start working here today? Please list some.	Absolutely. You could handle EKG prep, patient intake, record updating, and assist in basic procedures with minimal training.
In your experience, what are the top three reasons why young people have difficulties being hired?	Lack of hands-on experience, poor communication during interviews, and unrealistic expectations.
In your experience, what are the top three reasons why young people have challenges keeping their jobs?	Inconsistency, lack of accountability, and difficulty adapting to fast-paced environments.
What advice do you have for young employees who want to advance in their career?	Always seek feedback, be open to learning, and engage in continuous training and workshops.
What sorts of changes are occurring in your occupation?	AI is becoming a major player in diagnostics, and there's an increased shift toward preventive care and data-driven decision-making.
With the information you have about my education, skills and experience, what other fields or jobs would you suggest I research further?	Aside from clinical medicine, consider health informatics, research, or roles in hospital administration and medical device consulting.
How much demand is there for people in this occupation? Can you estimate future job openings?	Cardiology remains in high demand, especially with rising rates of cardiac conditions. Openings are projected to grow steadily over the next decade.
What are the salary ranges for your position in this field?	In Lebanon, starting cardiologists earn \$40,000–\$60,000 per year. In the U.S., it ranges from \$200,000 to \$400,000 depending on location and specialization.
Do you know of other organizations/places of work that do similar kinds of work or	Yes, cardiologists work in hospitals, private clinics, research labs, and NGOs. I can

use similar skills? Do you know of other people I might be able to talk to who have similar jobs?	introduce you to a colleague in interventional cardiology.
What's the best advice you'd give to someone interested in this field/seeking to qualify for this position?	This is a long and tough journey. If it were easy, everyone would do it. Embrace the struggle—it pays off.
I am told that X, Y and Z are my strongest assets. Where would these skills be helpful in this organization?	If your strengths are attention to detail, discipline, and communication, they'll be useful in clinical tasks, patient interactions, and even research coordination.
Would you mind taking a look at my resume/CV?	Of course. I'd be happy to provide feedback and guide you through improvements.