Rajpurkar Aryan

Round 1 : Cultural Assessment - Verbal and General Reasoning:

- This round was specifically to test if your values align with UBS vision and mission - they value team work and ownership so make sure to keep that in mind while giving the assessment, this round was online and it was not timed. Most likely it was not an elimination round - it is just a pre-requisite to the main coding assessment.

- Takes around 20-30 mins to complete both tests.

Round 2: Coding Assessment - Arithmetic & Logical Reasoning , OS and DBMS Fundamentals, DSA

- **Total Questions: 21**
    - **10 Logical & Arithmetic Reasoning** : Topics like Profit and Loss , Pattern Matching , Find the Odd Value
    - **10 Coding Related :** Topics like SQL Joins , Find errors in code , REST APIs, 1-2 questions related to microservices (scenario based - not in depth) . Questions based on Java concepts.
    - **1 DSA Question** : Question was based on concept of **Binary Search + Greedy Approach** to understand the minimum time taken for N number of servers to upgrade given the request times and time taken for each server to upgrade.

- **Time: 100 Minutes**
- **Platform: Hackerrank (Proctored)**

My Experience :

1. **Logical and Arithmetic Reasoning**
    a. Practice all types of questions from www.indiabix.com and give random tests. These questions, which are similar to those asked in verbal and arithmetic reasoning, are the easiest to get right, so practicing them will help you recognize patterns.
    b. I focused on these questions at the very end as I solved the DSA question in the very beginning

2. **Coding Related:**
    a. Some of the concepts were pretty basic which we learn in our college curriculum itself like Queues , Java Exceptions etc.
    b. Other complex concepts like REST APIs , Microservices and Advanced Java - I learnt from www.interviewbit.com , It's really helpful for interview prep as well for core subjects understanding.

c. Also go on www.sanfoundry.com to practice code debugging questions on Java , similar types of java code error finding and output mcqs are asked in UBS OA.

3. **DSA Question:**
   a. UBS OA was a lot tougher than it was for our seniors (2025 batch) , this year they heavily focused on deeper concepts like DP , Binary Search and Greedy approaches.
   b. Even if you understand the approach , UBS had one of the toughest edge cases I saw in any OA uptil date. Some of them got the pattern correct but failed to adapt the question to get all testcases to pass. Majority people could only pass 6-7 testcases during the OA.
   c. Our seniors told us that if you do not clear all testcases in the OA , you wont be selected for the Interview Round however this time the OA was so difficult that candidates with 12+ testcases passed also got shortlisted.
   d. I got a binary search question along with a greedy approach which I realized pretty early on and was able to solve the question with 8-9 testcases initially , then optimized it further and it passed all 15/15 testcases .

Overall:

I finished my OA will all questions in about 45 minutes. If the OA is not tough , it is advised you finish the test ASAP as time also plays a role in selection. This year the OA was tough so even when some of the selected students took whole 100 minutes , they cleared the OA as a lot of students were not able to solve the DSA Question

Around 500+ Students appeared for the OA.
17 were shortlisted for the Interview
- Out of 17 , **only 9 candidates** cleared OA and got shortlisted. I was one of them.
- **8 candidates were exempt from the OA** since they qualified for UBS Hackathon in February.

Interview :

2 Rounds :
1. **Technical Round**
2. **HR Round**

1. **Technical Round:**

Time: Usually 20-30 mins, mine went for 50 mins to 1 hr ,depends on the panel.

General Experience: Most interviews were around your resume, OS, DBMS, etc. This year UBS in their pre-placement talk highlighted their AI focus.

Their stack is mainly Java, Spring, Big Data ,they like people with good backend skills and adaptability to new tech. Winning hackathons or getting into their UBS hackathon helps a lot because the same people might interview you.

It really depends on the panel ,some stick to your resume, some ask random stuff like HTML, DBMS, system design, just to check your range. No DSA asked generally, it's more about core CS and your projects. They also ask about family, team experiences ,basically how well you fit in a team. Best to be honest, they value that.

My Interview Experience :

Since UBS spoke about their AI pivot, I felt pretty confident because most of my internships and projects were in ML, NLP, and LLMs. Both my interviewers were from tech (others had a tech + HR combo). They started by asking me to introduce myself , I spoke about how I got into coding in my childhood, my journey through college, how I got into hackathons, and building AIML projects. I also briefly explained my internships, mainly highlighting how each was in a different sector, such as education, FMCG, and SaaS.

One interviewer focused on my ML internship. He asked me to draw the full system architecture from the user's perspective, explain each framework I used, why I chose it, and how the system worked end-to-end. I explained the cloud setup too and went into detail about the adaptive quiz algorithm I worked on — how we calculated user ability in real-time to generate adaptive questions. He also asked which project or internship was the toughest for me and why.

He then asked about Agentic AI vs Generative AI (since I had listed both) and what I had implemented under each.

The other interviewer (a senior exec) focused on my adaptability , how I'd handle being stuck in one tech stack for months, how I'd engage with my team during a crisis, and asked me to share an ambitious idea I'd want to pursue. We discussed that idea in detail. He also asked how I'd apply AI at UBS to benefit users/stakeholders and wanted me to identify a current crisis in banking + how I'd solve it.

Finally, he asked me for 2 lines about my USP - basically what made me stand out from other candidates that he could pitch to his manager.

11-12 were shortlisted for HR round

2. HR Round

HR round was mostly focused on your interaction and how naturally you respond. I was first asked about my **hackathon experiences**, specifically which one I was most proud of. I spoke about **winning SIH 2024** and shared my journey there.

I was then given a question quite similar to the one in my tech round , to identify a **crisis in the banking sector**. I mentioned the **rising issue of debt collection** and how it's becoming a serious problem for banks.

They mainly wanted to judge how I **interact, think on the spot, and adapt** to their flow of questioning. The conversation was pretty casual, and that's exactly what they're looking for , a smooth, honest discussion.

Some of my friends were asked random but light questions like their **favourite singer** or **favourite author**. A few were also asked if they planned to go for a **Master's degree** in the future.**Important tip:** Always say **no** immediately. Being unsure or hesitant can give the impression that you're not looking for long-term commitment, which may lead to elimination.

Towards the end, I was asked a classic behavioural question ,
 "Would you rather be the best player on a losing team or the worst player on a winning team?"
 There's no right or wrong answer here. They just want to see your **thought process** and how confidently you justify your stance.

Verdict:

9/12 candidates cleared the final HR Round and were selected for FTE at UBS.