

Mahindra Finance

Summer Internship Interview Experience

Year – 2025

Location – Kurla

Stipend – INR 40,000/- per month

Duration – 2 months



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Hello readers!

First of all, I sincerely thank you for giving your valuable time to read my interview experience at Mahindra Finance. Hope this helps you during your internship/placement drive.

In this doc I have provided detailed explanation of each question asked (as I did during my interview). So, if you want, **you may read the complete answer or just go through the questions**. I have also included the "**key learnings**" section at the end including learnings from this as well as past interviews.

So, let's get started!

The company arrived in our campus on 24th Nov, 2025 amidst our ESE preparation. There were **2 roles – Data Analytics and IT Engineering**. Our ESE was going to start from 1st Dec. Nevertheless, I applied for the company as the role suited to my interests. I had little/no aspirations for getting selected whatsoever and moreover, I had to concentrate on the upcoming exams.

❖ Stage 1: Application (24th Nov, 2025)

Initially the company came for CS & IT branch only. But later, applications were also accepted from Electronics, Electrical and ExTC.

Eligibility criteria: No backlogs, Percentage>=60% in 10th and 12th, CGPA>=6.75

❖ Stage 2: Resume shortlisting

People having **CGPA >= 8** were shortlisted.

Total shortlisted for stage 2: **176**

❖ Stage 3: Online Test (25th Nov, 2025)

It felt good when my resume was shortlisted (although it was purely done based on CGPA). Now it was time to give the online test.

Type of questions: Aptitude, logical reasoning, blood relations, profit & loss, simple and compound interest, general knowledge, basic vocabulary and English grammar, sequences, numerical relations and much more. Similar to aptitude syllabus of GATE.

Total questions: 100

Total time: 60 mins

Mode: Online

Total shortlisted for stage 3: 75

❖ Stage 4: Coding Test (26th Nov, 2025)

Type of questions:

- 1) Coding: They were very simple, for e.g. sort a string in ascending/descending order, find greatest/smallest number, reverse a string/list of numbers and some other simple variations of these problems.
- 2) MCQs: Related to basic python, for e.g. identify correct code snippet, identify correct output, identify error in code snippet, syntax and functions, etc.

Total questions: 3 coding, 20 MCQs

Total time: 45 mins

Mode: Online

Total shortlisted for stage 4: 39

❖ Leadership Talk (PPT): (28th Nov, 2025)

This talk was conducted by Devendra Sharnagat, the Chief Data Analytics Officer at Mahindra Finance. He explained very well about his journey from an ICT graduate to his current position in the company. He also talked about the company and its reach to tier 2 and 3 cities and customers with varied backgrounds.

❖ Stage 5: Technical Interview (29th Nov, 2025, @9am)

Total shortlisted: 19

Out of 19 people –

- 8 opted for IT Engineering
- 11 opted for Data Analytics

Being shortlisted for interview felt nothing new to me, as I had given interviews for 3 companies before. So, I tried to focus more on my exams rather than interview prep. The night before my interview (28th Nov) I updated my resume with the latest projects, revised them and prepared a solid introduction. The interviews were scheduled the next day at 9 am, and I was the 2nd person in the line.

Venue – Aero Lab, VJTI.

Due to some delays, the interviews started sharp at 10 am. My turn came at 10:15 am.

There were 2 interviewers for technical.

- **Introduction:**

(First greeted the interviewers with a warm smile.)

"Thank you for giving me this opportunity. Myself Prashik Manwar, currently pursuing B.Tech in Electronics Engineering from VJTI. My core domain of interest lies in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Analytics & NLP.

I have worked on several projects based on these domains – I developed a RAG based Multi-lingual PDF Q&A system (chatbot) using LangChain, Ollama & ChromaDB which allows the user to upload a PDF and ask questions related to it in natural language.

I have also developed an E-Commerce Sales Dashboard using PowerBI where I analysed the data using KPIs such as total sales, total profit; and used drill-down slicers to visualize data quarterly and state-wise using bar charts, histograms and donut charts.

I have also worked on sentiment analysis using stock market headlines using VADER & nltk where I extracted financial news data related to a stock from Finviz website and calculated polarity scores for that stock for a particular day. This was done for 5 consecutive days and then visualized in form of a line chart which indicated the market mood for that stock.

Moreover, I have developed PrevaMed – a healthcare analytics platform using ML and Streamlit to predict the probability of occurrence of 5 critical diseases (diabetes, hypertension, asthma, CKD, cancer). This allows the user to take necessary actions on time and prevent the occurrence of the disease.

So, that was a brief introduction about me.
Thankyou."

Questions about Project - Multi-Lingual PDF Q&A System

❖ What is RAG?

Answer – Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) is a concept by which we develop or train an AI agent/chatbot only using the data which we have. This ensures that the agent/chatbot answers the questions based only on the data which we provide and not any other data. This greatly reduces the chances of hallucinations and ensures responses relevant to our data only.

❖ Why did you use ChromaDB specifically?

Answer – I used ChromaDB because the dataset (pdfs) which I had contained both images and text. So in order to ensure that the relevant text is extracted from the images as well (which is one of the unique features of ChromaDB), I used ChromaDB. I could have used FAISS also but it is a preferred option when we have data largely in form of text.

❖ **What are embeddings and how are they created...what did you use to create those embeddings and where are they stored?**

Answer – I said, “Embeddings are nothing but a vector/numerical representation of the text. I am not quite sure about how exactly they are created, but I used nomic-embed-text to create them. I used Ollama’s LLM (“nomic-embed-text”) to create them. These embeddings are stored in ChromaDB vector database along with their respective chunk.”

❖ **What is semantic search and multi-query retrieval?**

Answer – In RAG, I used Ollama to create multiple queries which were similar to the user’s original query. Then, I used multi-query retriever to retrieve the information from the vector database. The multi-query retriever takes the different variations of the user query as input, converts them into embeddings and searches in the vector database for the embeddings which nearly match to these queries. This is called semantic search.

❖ **What is document chunking?**

Answer – Document chunking means dividing the extracted text into various parts or chunks. While document chunking, I also ensured that chunk overlap is taking place.

❖ **Tesseract is a very old technology...why did you use it even if you had other alternatives for that?**

Answer – I used Tesseract because I found it the most accurate in my case. It was giving satisfactory results.

❖ **If you want to host your chatbot online, how would you handle the large traffic of users?**

Answer – I would use haystack. Haystack is a python framework which provides various libraries to deploy production ready chatbots.

❖ **What is the value of DPI that you set to extract text from scanned copies?**

Answer – In range of 300-400

❖ **How did you host Ollama on Google Colab...you must have done something like chat.invoke() ??**

Answer – I installed Ollama in Google Colab using “!pip install” command and used in inbuilt colab kernel to operate it.

❖ **What are the different parameters available for tuning a chatbot?**

Answer – Actually there are many, but I told them only about temperature – It is a parameter used to make a chatbot more creative or direct. If the temperature is low, the chatbot will give straight-forward answers & if it is high, the chatbot will give more creative responses.

Questions about Project - E-Commerce Sales Insights Dashboard

❖ **What is the difference between dimension and measure in PowerBI?**

I gave a partially correct answer:

Dimension – They are the number of rows and columns in the dataset -> Wrong!
(Dimension is a data modelling term used to classify the type of information a column. They provide descriptive context (who, what, where, when) of the dataset. Eg. Product Name, City, Date, Customer Name.)

Measure – It is something which we calculate by applying DAX formulae to a numerical column. -> Right!

❖ **What is the significance of drill-down slicers in your project?**

Answer – I used them to visualize sales data quarterly as well as for a particular state.

Questions about Project - PrevaMed Healthcare Analytics Platform

❖ **Which machine learning algorithm have you used (mostly) to predict the occurrence of diseases?**

Answer – I used RandomForestClassifier as it worked well with both categorical and numerical data.

❖ **Where did you get the dataset from?**

Answer – Kaggle

❖ **What was the most important performance metric in this project and why do you consider it the most important?**

Answer – “In this project, I considered recall to be the most important. Formula for recall is $TP/(TP+FN)$.” I wasn’t able to explain much clearly that why recall was the most important, but you can get the detailed explanation [here](#).

Questions about Leadership/Extracurricular

❖ **Tell me about Hacksagon 2025.**

Answer – It was a national level hackathon conducted at IIITM Gwalior. Out of total 600+ registered teams, we were among the top 25 teams to emerge as a finalist. I led the team of 4 to develop PrevaMed as the project for this hackathon. I worked with one of my teammates to develop and deploy the ML models and the other 2 members developed the front-end of the website and focused on overall integration of ML models and website.

The interviewers were giving an overall score to the candidate based on various criteria. Personally, I felt that my technical interview went moderate. There were more 9 people to be interviewed for my role. Nevertheless, I started preparing for HR.

The results came out 1.5 hours later. Out of 11, 4 were selected for HR from my role, and I was one of them. I was called first so, I went in.

❖ Stage 6: HR Interview (29th Nov, 2025, @11:30am)

Total shortlisted: 8 (4 people each from Data Analytics & IT)

❖ Introduce yourself and give a background about yourself.

I gave the same introduction as given in the technical interview. But rather than explaining all the projects in one line I just said that my core domain of interest lies in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and NLP; and I have done projects related to RAG, PowerBI, and other technologies mentioned in my resume.

Then I talked about where I completed my 10th and 12th. The interviewer also asked my 10th and 12th percentages. Then I told him about my hobbies and other interests.

❖ What is your opinion about AI?

The AI industry is currently booming and many people are getting hired for AI related roles. AI is like a new electricity - it is powering every industry's growth. Personally, I feel that people should learn and adopt to this new technology.

This does not mean that we must completely rely on AI to code and solve every problem. We must understand the problem in our project & for that we must be clear with the basics. We must know that AI can make mistakes and it is not always accurate. Also, if certain problem/bug arises during development of a project, we should be able to debug it, and for that we must have a good understanding of the basics. Hence, I think that the basics of coding are not going anywhere and we must not completely rely on AI.

❖ Situation-based:

- 1) Suppose you have a project deadline approaching. Your project manager has 20+ years of experience in company and asks you to do the project in way X, but you think that the project should be done in way Y. In which way would you like to proceed forward?

My answer – In this scenario, I would try to convince my manager about the strengths of way Y and how it is better than way X.

(The more appropriate answer was to opt for a hybrid approach – I would consider the strengths of way X as well as way Y and draft a hybrid approach using them. This would help completing the project within the deadline.)

- 2) Suppose you are in a team of 4 working on a project with a deadline approaching. How would you allocate the tasks to everyone and ensure that it gets completed within the deadline?

First of all, I would get to know about my teammates well, their strengths, weaknesses and their proficiency in any one field. For e.g. as a team leader of my team at Hacksagon, I allocated tasks to each one of my teammates based on their skill-sets (like someone who is good English speaking was given the introduction and explanation of the problem statement, I was able to explain the entire workflow and handle ML model development

of the project clearly whereas other 2 were good at web dev part so they designed the frontend).

3) What all did you learn in the last 1 year? Also tell the things you learnt which are not mentioned in your resume.

In the past one year, I learnt about implementing RAG systems, designing Power BI dashboards, exploring IoT and everything that is mentioned in my resume. Other than that, I have also been active in physical activities like football and skating. I also did start learning Japanese but it did not interest me much so I discontinued it.

4) Puzzle:

You have 8 similar looking balls. One of them is of higher weight than others. You have a weighing scale (taraju). In how many minimum number of iterations would you be able to find the heavier ball?

Consider 1 iteration as weighing once.

Bruteforce answer – 3.

Optimal answer - 2.

You can do this by pen and paper by dividing the 8 balls into 2 groups – Grp A (6 balls) and Grp B (2 balls). If we weigh Grp B and the weight is uneven, we have found the heavier ball in 1st iteration. If we want to weigh Grp A, we again divide it into Grp A1 (3 balls) and Grp A2 (3 balls) and put them on the scale. If one of the Grp is heavier (say A1) then we will again divide A1 into 2 groups (2 balls and 1 ball). This way we have found the heavier ball in 2 iterations only.

5) What do you know about Mahindra Finance?

Mahindra Finance is a NBFC. It currently holds nearly 34% market share in Tier 2 & 3 cities and holds good reputation and trust in these areas. The organization provides various loan facilities like education loan, vehicle loan, home loan, etc. to its customers from varied backgrounds. It has also taken significant steps towards sustainability ensuring environment protection. Also, the company is continuously working on developing scalable and user-friendly solutions for its customers.

6) Do you have any questions?

I asked the interviewer about his role in the company. He was a Chief Manager of HR department responsible for talent acquisition, talent management, employee engagement and onboarding.

This interview was the longest I had ever given (45 mins).

In the end the interviewer said, “Thankyou Prashik. We will look forward to you.” Of course, this was neither positive nor negative response. I replied, “Okay sir. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.” (You can say this before the beginning and after the end of any interview.)

Then we were allowed to go for lunch. We were told that the results were going to be announced the next day (30th Nov). But the results were not announced that day and also the day after (1st Dec).

On 2nd Dec, 2025 I was going back to my hostel room after giving first exam of ESE. My phone was on silent and kept in my bag. Upon reaching the entrance of the hostel, one of my friends came towards me shouting, "Bhava! Jhala na Mahindra!". I exclaimed, "Kaay mhantos!" I hastily took my mobile out of my bag and the first thing I noticed was 5 missed calls from my friends. Then I opened my WhatsApp....and it was the best feeling of relief and I ever got that day.

Total 5 people had received an offer, 2 for IT Engineering and 3 for Data Analytics role, and I was one of them.

To be honest, I never thought that I would receive an on-campus offer. Mostly, the people who want to get an internship offer start preparing early from Sem 4. I honestly never thought of that and focused more on improving my CGPA. Actually, I was more focused on placement season in the long term. But as companies started to come for internships in Sem 5, I told myself, "Try toh karke dekhte hai."

From starting till the end of Sem 5, I tried and tried again for getting internships.

My journey started by approaching CoE at VJTI as they have a place for everybody to contribute to their projects and work as an intern there. Approaching CoE was one of the key decisions I made in Sem 5 (this is the place from where I got my RAG-based project as an assignment!). Unfortunately, getting into CoE as an intern didn't work out.

I also gave an off-campus interview at Avesta Solar. They had some role related to data which interested me. Unfortunately, I failed in that too.

Then followed the interviews of Texas Instruments, Citi Bank and Axis Bank. Obviously, I failed in them but learnt something valuable from each one of them, getting better and gaining confidence after every interview.

After failing 5 interviews back-to-back, finally, Mahindra Finance had a place for me!

Many people (even my seniors) used to say that placements and internships are 30% hardwork and 70% luck (Yeah, they even told the percentages!). They even told me to not expect an on-campus internship offer. Of course, luck plays an important role, but I think that wasn't so much applicable in my case.

So, you will have setbacks and failures during internship and placement season. At one point of time, you may think that all the hard work that you did means nothing (as it happened to me after my Axis Bank interview), but remember that every second you spend doing a project of your own and the countless nights that you spend learning a new skill, will never go to waste.

Efforts are like a boomerang; they always return with a reward 

So, never stop trying and **never give up** 🤙.

❖ Key learnings (from every interview):

1) Texas Instruments:

- ❖ **FOCUS ON DEVELOPING BETTER COMMUNICATION SKILLS** – In the interview, I often stuttered when questions were asked. Also, my voice lacked confidence. Hence, having good comm skills is a must. At least you should be able to **express your ideas/thoughts in a way the interviewer can understand**.

Note – for TSR role, even if you have less technical knowledge, you are more likely to get selected if you have very good comm skills, as compared to other candidate having more technical knowledge but poor comm skills.

- ❖ **READ ABOUT THE ROLE TWICE BEFORE APPLYING** – I think this was the most important lesson. If the role does not interest you, just don't apply and don't waste time in preparing for the interview.
- ❖ **PRACTICE SYSTEM DESIGN QUESTIONS (ESPECIALLY FOR COMPANIES LIKE TI)** – Also don't forget to revise different types of **filters, converters** (buck, boost, etc.), **AC-DC converters**, and overall **basics of electronics**.
- ❖ **BE THOROUGH WITH YOUR CORE PROJECTS** – you should have a **deep understanding** about projects and the various components you used (sensors, modules, etc.)
- ❖ Practice more **HR/situational-based type of questions** for these kinds of roles.

2) Citi Bank:

- **KNOW YOUR RESUME AND PROJECTS WELL:** You should be able to answer any question based on the projects that you have worked on.
- **BE CONFIDENT WHILE ANSWERING:** Citi does not expect much from a TY student applying for internship role. Even if the job role is not related to your resume and if the role interests you, just go for it. You should have confidence in what you have done in last 2-3 years, and explain your projects clearly.

For e.g. one of my friends had done core electronics projects only and mentioned them in his resume. The company's JD was focused on app dev requirements but still he was able to clear the technical interview as he was confidently able to explain his projects.

3) Axis Bank:

- **ALWAYS ALWAYS ALWAYS have your answer ready for this question – “What are your hobbies? or What are your interests other than academics?”**

This was the part where I fumbled and stuttered a lot. Actually, I do have hobbies but I had not prepared for this question and said, “My hobbies are learning Japanese and journaling.” (I was not much interested in learning Japanese; I just downloaded Duolingo a few days before the interview and practice for a while, but later I lost interest. Moreover, THE INTERVIEWER KNEW JAPANESE VERY WELL 🤪).

He then started to ask me questions related to Japanese. Here is the complete conversation:

Interviewer: “So, tell me why did you want to learn Japanese and not any other language?”

Me: “Umm...so, I started learning Japanese because I used to watch a lot of anime and loved Japanese culture and its people.”

Interviewer: “Okay. Now can you tell me what are the 2 types of languages in Japan? I guess there is an old one and a new one. What are their names?”

Me: “Umm...sorry sir. I am not aware about it.”

Interviewer: “Okay. Then tell me, what is the currency of Japan and how do we write it?”

Me: “The currency of Japan is yen. But I am not aware of how we actually write it.”

Then the interviewer went on to explain me the answer...and the interview finally ended. I was the 2nd last person to be interviewed.

Actually, I later realised that they had already selected the candidates they wanted before my interview was scheduled. So, my interview was conducted just for the sake of conducting; they didn't want to give me an offer as they had already got the candidates they wanted. Moreover, it was nearly 6 pm in the evening and the interviewers (in general) are already tired.

I had worked really hard for Axis Bank's interview, and I was confident that I would definitely be able to crack it. Especially for this interview I made my Power BI project (as the role was related to data analytics), sacrificing college studies, bunking lectures and working late at night. Also, I worked on my RAG project by understanding its entire workflow. Moreover, I had a good experience from Citi Bank interview. **But the problem was, I prepared the technical part well, but failed to give importance to the HR type questions.** Also, my interview was taken by the HR Manager of the company.

4) Mahindra Finance:

Everything that I learnt from the last 3 interviews was applicable here.

(If you want to read about my experiences with TI, Citi Bank & Axis Bank **in detail**, check out [this](#) GitHub Link).

Peace ✌ 😊