Apollo Campus Placement Experience

Company: APOLLO GLOBAL MANAGEMENT
Role: Analyst (As given in the JD)
Candidate: Paarth Wakare
Status: Selected
CTC: ₹19 LPA (12 fixed)
FT Role, No internship

About the Company and what they expected

Apollo is a global team of alternative investment managers with over 30 years of proven expertise across Private Equity, Credit, and Real Estate. Known for its integrated businesses, strong investment performance, value-oriented philosophy, and exceptional talent, Apollo is committed to delivering uncommon value to investors and shareholders.

The technology teams at Apollo—spanning areas such as Data Engineering, Trade Flow, Reconciliations, and Digital Distribution Intelligence—work on delivering enterprise-level solutions across a diverse set of platforms and business needs.

This role involves developing applications using Java or Python frameworks, Spring Boot, SQL, ReactJS, and Microservices with cloud integration. Responsibilities include maintaining programming standards, applying framework patterns for scalable services, conducting code reviews, contributing to test automation, and developing CI/CD pipelines for automated deployments.

Candidates are expected to have foundational knowledge in Java/Python, Spring Boot, SQL, ReactJS/AngularJS, NodeJS, and cloud technologies. Additional exposure to Spark/Flink, Kafka, Snowflake, data analytics, and containerization tools is a plus. Familiarity with test-driven development and tools like JUnit is also advantageous.
Success in this role requires strong problem-solving skills, a logical and structured approach to technical tasks, and the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively within a team environment.

The Interview Process - Round by Round

Round 1: DSA Test

Format: Hackerrank Test
Topics: Medium to semi medium DSA questions

My Experience:
The test consisted of 8 DSA questions to be solved within a 1-hour timeframe. I was able to fully solve 2 questions, and with better time management, I believe I could have solved at least 2 more. The difficulty level was around medium on LeetCode, and from what I observed, most candidates managed to solve only one question.

Preparation Resource:
I consistently practiced DSA problems on CodeChef's old practice page. I recommend solving around 50–60 problems from each difficulty level — this should prepare you well for most company coding rounds. The rating-based practice system on CodeChef really helps in tracking your progress and gradually increasing difficulty.
General DSA Advice:
I seriously started focusing on DSA just one month before the Apollo test. From my experience, understanding the underlying concepts is far more important than memorizing patterns. CodeChef was extremely effective for me — I personally found it more helpful than LeetCode. The structured difficulty

levels and wide variety of problems allowed for more targeted practice.
In contrast, LeetCode didn't work well for me — out of 10 problems, I could only solve 4 on my own and had to rely on solutions for the rest. So, choose the platform that suits your learning style best.

Simply copying solutions from the web is one of the least effective ways to learn DSA. While it might help you maintain a daily streak or give a temporary sense of progress, it won't build the problem-solving skills. Focus on understanding why a solution works, not just how it works

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Round 2: Technical Round 1

Shortlist: 140/350
Duration: 45 minutes
Interviewer:

Interview Flow:

As soon as I sat down, I was asked to introduce myself. During my introduction, I mentioned that I'm passionate about AI and motivated to solve real-world problems. He immediately followed up by asking me which project I had worked on that addressed a real-world issue.
In response, I explained my final year project in detail. The discussion lasted for about 35 to 45 minutes, during which I walked him through the problem statement, the approach I took, and the impact of the solution.
At the end of the conversation, he gave positive feedback, saying that I was doing a good job and encouraged me not to feel nervous as he had noticed signs of restlessness.

Round 3: Technical Round 2

Shortlist: 40 out of 140
Duration: 30 minutes
Interviewer:

Interview Flow:

The second round was conducted by the senior-most person on the panel. He asked for my resume about five minutes before starting the interview.
He mentioned that he was particularly interested in one of my projects from the IPD course and began asking in-depth questions about how I had implemented it. During our discussion, he pointed out a flaw in the project. I acknowledged it respectfully and responded, **"Thank you for pointing this out — I'll definitely work on improving it."**

Interestingly, the night before the interview, I had built and deployed a new project that I was eager to show him. However, during the interview, the deployment didn't work as expected. He mentioned that he was heading out for lunch and asked me to show it to him later.

Ironically, just five minutes after he left, the project started running perfectly 😭. I quickly explained the situation to the coordinator and asked if there was a way to present it.
She informed me that the Round 2 panelist was still at lunch, but that my Round 1 panelist was interested in seeing the project. I presented it to him and walked him through the concept and execution. He appreciated it and told me to make sure it was ready to show when his senior (the R2 panelist) returned.
Shortly afterward, I was called back in to present the project again — this time in front of both the R1 and R2 panelists. They gave constructive feedback, pointed out a few improvements.

As part of his(round 2 panelist) feedback, he encouraged me to get more hands-on with Big Data

technologies like Apache Spark, Hadoop, and Kafka, emphasizing that these skills are valuable for solving large-scale real-world problems.

Round 4: HR Round

Shortlist: 11 out of 40 students
Duration: 5 minutes

My HR round was conducted just five minutes before the final results were announced. It included standard HR questions such as my hobbies, internship experience, and why I hadn't applied to Apollo the previous year, along with other typical questions aimed at understanding my background and motivation.

Key Facts From My Experience

- **Campus placement is 70% luck, 30% performance on interview day**
- **Hidden shortlisting criteria exist** - branch preference, CGPA cutoffs, diploma vs 12th pass, and other unstated filters
- **Companies I couldn't sit for due to eligibility:** Clevertap (only comps IT), ARCON (9+ cgpa criteria), Morgan Stanley(9+ cgpa criteria)

Some Advice:

- Codechef is goated. Leetcode is overrated in my opinion
- Avoid tailoring your resume solely to match the job description. Instead, ensure that everything you include is something you genuinely understand and can speak about confidently.
- Solve aptitude questions from indiabix.com
- Don't be disheartened by rejection — treat it as a learning opportunity. Always ask for feedback at the end of the interview, regardless of how you think it went. Constructive insights can help you improve and perform better in future interviews.
- Be bold enough to prioritize the company's brand value and the role itself over just the CTC. Computer Science is increasingly becoming an interest-driven field — it's better to pursue what you're genuinely passionate about than to regret choosing a path purely for 💸💰 reasons.
- Make a habit of upskilling, even during holidays. Consistent learning, especially when others pause, will **always** give you a long-term advantage.
- Never compare yourself to other students — everyone is on their own unique journey. Stay focused on your personal growth and progress, rather than making comparisons.

I believe I've covered nearly every detail of my interview experience, along with some useful tips on preparation and DSA. However, if you ever have any doubts about the placement process or feel unsure about where to begin your preparation, feel free to reach out on : https://www.linkedin.com/in/paarthwakare/

PS: This is the resume that helped me land the opportunity. Feel free to check it out and use the format as inspiration for your own: ResumeLink