

Interview Expectations & Prep Material

1. The Interview Process

- The interview process for our internship program contains several phases: 2 online interviews (technical interview – Ninja - with Engineers), 1 phone interview (non-technical with your Recruiter) and Offer Extension/Acceptance phase. In some cases, a follow-up interview will also be required, to check some technical points not identified in the previous Ninjas.
- The first technical interview lasts about 45 minutes and it is done via Blue Jeans (video/audio chat service), with coding on collabedit.com/Coderpad. There is no drawing tool and usually, engineers don't ask candidates to run a code.
- If your first interview is strong, we go on to a 2nd online interview. The second interview usually lasts 1h and the interviewer will be keen to test your coding and communication skills (be prepared to answer general questions, besides technical ones).
- If you pass the interviews, we will extend an offer letter to you. You will have some time to consider it (but why would you need time? You are going to accept right away, correct???)
- If you know anyone at your school that might be interested in working on Facebook or can recommend any sites, forums, programming competitions I can find more rock stars like you, please let me know! Your referrals would be much appreciated!

2. Ensure the best communication quality

- For online interviews, please find a quiet room with good internet connection. If you cannot find one for the time of the interview, you might want to ask us to reschedule the interview. A quiet room makes it much easier to hear and be heard.
- Prepare an earpiece or find a phone with a clear handsfree mode. You will be writing code right on your computer while speaking and listening.
- If you find that it's hard for the interviewer to hear you, you can type the sentences while you speak.
- If you cannot hear, please ask the interviewer to slow down or repeat. If the interviewer cannot understand you, please speak slowly and repeat.

3. Expectation of the interviews

- Don't treat the interview as an exam. Treat it as an interactive session where you will be explaining your thought process.
- Questions may not be extremely difficult. Don't try overly complex solutions. If you cannot explain your solution clearly in 5 minutes, it's probably too complex.
- You are expected to explain your solution to the interviewer. The correctness of code is important but you also need to talk about how it works.
- You should ask the interviewers if you have a question on the problem or are unsure about what they

want you to do.

Prepare yourself!

Please research any recent news about Facebook for talking points and more information about the company. The interviewer will be giving you feedback on 3 primary areas: algorithmic knowledge, coding, and communication. You need to do well in ALL 3 areas to get a strong feedback.

Algorithmic knowledge - Can you explain your solution? Can you explain why one algorithm is better than the other? Do you know what the most optimal algorithm is? Don't overcomplicate the interview problem. Come up with a working solution first and then work on optimizing it. Sure there are algorithms that might be the most optimal but if it is going to take you 45 minutes to explain it, then go with the easier one first. Ask interviewer questions to clarify what he/she is looking for.

Coding - You will be asked to produce clean, efficient code in a reasonable amount of time. You have 45 minutes on the call. You might be asked 1 or 2 questions within that timeframe so your goal is to finish the interview question as best as you can and move on. Do not assume you only have 1 question to solve. If the interviewer gives you hints to improve your code, take them and run with them. It is good to adjust and work through the problems with the interviewer to show your thought process and problem-solving ability. At the bottom of this guide, there are several links for you to practice coding puzzles.

Communication - Interviewer will be asking questions to see how you communicate. Are you able to talk about things top down in a hierarchical way? For ex., if they ask you about a project you have done, they want you to first give an overview of the project. Then, they want to hear you describe the project in detail and explain what your involvement is. Was the problem you were working on hard? Why was the problem hard? How did you go about coming up with a solution? We want to hear about work that YOU HAVE DONE, not a project where you were not very involved. They want to hear you talk about your project from beginning to end.

They will also ask you why you want to work here on Facebook. They want to hear an answer from an engineering perspective, not from a user perspective. Interviewers will also be gauging how proactive you are in asking questions. Don't be shy. You can ask as many questions as you want.

Be prepared for technical questions involving coding or algorithms in your best language, design patterns, and more specific questions about your background. It may also help to review core CS concepts (data structures, binary trees, link lists, object-oriented analysis/design) as well as subjects pertaining to the scale of our environment.

During the interview, please do not type on your computer unless you are coding. You should not be searching for anything on the web. If you have seen the coding problem before, please let the interviewer know so he can give you another question.

In the end, they will ask you if you have any questions. Be curious, and make sure you do ask questions! DO NOT ask interviewers anything about salary or anything about recruiting (offers). Engineer is there to gauge your technical abilities. If you have any questions regarding the recruiting process, please ask me, not the engineer.

Qualities we look for in Engineers:

A **Drive** to help the world get closer together - Facebook has played a critical part in changing how people around the world communicate with one another. Facebook engineers are not only talented, but also passionate about solving the challenges associated with connecting the next billion users.

The material in this packet is only intended for Facebook Recruiting Candidates. Please refrain from sharing or distributing externally. The tips included are designed to help you prepare for your interview. They do not guarantee a favorable outcome in the Interview process interview.

Ownership of projects from start to finish - Facebook engineers are always building new things, and have a demonstrated ability of owning projects from start to finish. Our engineers are able to take on every aspect of a project- from design and development to implementation and support.

Ability to thrive in a flexible, flat environment - Facebook has a very flat hierarchy and all of our engineers are flexible and agile enough to stop what they're doing at a moment notice and code. Everyone is a Software Engineer and everyone is hands-on.

Daringness to be Bold - Facebook engineers have consistently taken on challenging projects throughout their education and careers. When you speak with engineers on our team you'll hear stories about times they weren't quite sure about how they were going to accomplish a project, but dared to be bold, iterated quickly and found a solution. Our engineers love working on the most difficult challenges. They embrace uncertainty, take risks and learn from Failure.

Useful Links:

Facebook Code Lab:

<https://codelab.interviewbit.com/index/>

Helpful Coding tips:

- Practice: use Facebook Code Lab to prepare for the types of questions you'll encounter in your interview.
- Reacquaint yourself with core CS concepts, general software engineering skills, and topics related to the scale of our environment
- Make sure that your code is free from bugs and your approach to solving the problems is as concise and efficient as possible
- Answer the questions in the language that you feel most comfortable with
- Understand the following techniques that can be applied to many different kinds of questions: algorithms, design patterns, data structures, recursions, binary tree questions
- If the interviewer gives you hints to improve your code, take them and run with them
- It is good to adjust and work through the problems with the interviewer to show your thought process and problem-solving ability

Wanna practice a coding puzzle?

<http://bit.ly/oUHI4G>

<http://www.careercup.com/page>

<http://www.leetcode.com/>

<http://projecteuler.net/problems>

[TopCoder](#)

[CodeChef](#)

[Hacker.org Challenge](#) — The hacker.org challenges are a series of puzzles, tricks, tests, and brainteasers designed to probe the depths your hacking skills.

How to Crush Your Coding Interview

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=10152735777427200>

More information about Facebook

Facebook Careers Page:

<http://www.facebook.com/careers>

Universities on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Universities>

Important Statistics:

<http://newsroom.fb.com>

Software Engineer Intern Review at Glassdoor

https://www.glassdoor.com/Reviews/Facebook-Software-Engineer-Intern-Reviews-EI_IE40772.0,8_KO9,33.htm

Books of interest:

[Cracking the Coding Interview](#) by Gayle Laakmann

[Algorithms for Interviews](#) by Adnan Aziz

[Programming Challenges](#) by Steven S. Skiena

I hope these tips will help you rock during the interview!!! Feel free to let me know if you have other questions.

Thanks and best of luck!