

08-28 Interview: Google Play BI/Data Science Vendor SQL Role — Brandon Screening and Process

2025-08-28 17:24:38

00:00:01 Brandon A.

Hello, this is Brandon.

00:00:03 Jolly J.

Hey, Brandon, this is Jolly. You're here to know it's Galen's. How are you.

00:00:07 Brandon A.

Yeah, hi, Jolly. Thanks for turning my call. I'm good. I'm just getting over a little cold, but yeah, I'm good.

00:00:12 Jolly J.

Feeling better.

00:00:13 Brandon A.

Yeah, I feel better. I just don't sound 100% yet.

00:00:17 Jolly J.

Yeah, I think I can feel it. I know, you know, once you get cold cough, it's been, it's not like this before, but now when you get it, it's just, it never leaves.

00:00:27 Brandon A.

I know, somebody said that, somebody, yeah, somebody said that they had COVID. And I was like, oh, no, not that.

00:00:35 Jolly J.

But don't you think it's kind of an old thing? Like, you know, because we do, I'm in Seattle, you know, I mean, it's been, yeah, it's been a while, but you know, I mean, when the school was on, we used to hear like on social media, yeah, just got tested positive. And I'm like, oh, okay, that's fine.

00:00:54 Brandon A.

Yeah, I might need to get tested, but no, I'm feeling, I'm feeling better. I just sound horrible. So I apologize.

00:01:00 Jolly J.

Yeah, no, that's fine. And I'll make sure, you know, try to get our conversation as short as possible. Oh, no, it's fine. I appreciate it. Thank you. Now, I don't remember if I shared the job description. Now, it doesn't look like I have your email. So that's fine. I can, you know, once, if you get a chance to send me your email on LinkedIn and I can share the job description with you. Now, the position,

00:01:31 Jolly J.

so are you currently working, Brandon.

00:01:34 Brandon A.

No, so I've actually been interviewing. I'm not in any like late stage, like no final offers or anything. I'm very early stages. I interview, like I kind of had like a round of interviews and some of them didn't pan out. The feedback that I was getting was, hey, we went with a younger, less experienced candidate. So we didn't have to pay them as much. Which kind of. It wasn't the best thing I wanted to hear, but that's how the market is right now.

00:02:05 Brandon A.

But since then, I've got three certifications, AWS, Snowflake, and Power BI, as well as some personal AI projects that I've been working on.

00:02:17 Jolly J.

Got it. You said Snowflake, Power BI, and AWS.

00:02:22 Brandon A.

Yeah, AWS certified cloud practitioner.

00:02:27 Jolly J.

Got it. Okay.

00:02:28 Brandon A.

And I can send you... I'm going to go ahead and...

00:02:30 Jolly J.

Oh, no, it's fine. I mean, yeah. I mean, Snowflake, Power BI, if you have it listed on your resume, definitely that's going to help. Now, you are in Atlanta, so Eastern time zone. Yes, that's correct. Now, this position, it is Pacific time zone, three hours behind, 100% remote. So are you okay to work Pacific hours.

00:02:56 Brandon A.

Yes. Actually, so I just shot you over my email, by the way. on LinkedIn um but yeah my previous role um we kind of I was I was over Arizona operations Florida operations and like Ohio and a few other states so um yeah I'm very very and it was remote.

00:03:14 Jolly J.

as well so I'm used to working those hours okay all right I did receive your message um

okay now your data role what is your core expertise what I'm trying to find is let's say sequel versus.

00:03:34 Brandon A.

python what do you use extensively so I've used I've used both um extensively on pretty much every role that I've that I've had since college um sequel is my bread and butter so that's kind of like my you know I would say 10 out of 10 um skill and then python is a very thank you python, is very close second I use it for personal projects and I've used it for multiple, You know work projects, I would say 8.5 or 9 out of 10. Not like a master, but pretty expert level.

00:04:11 Jolly J.

I'm trying to pull up the job description, which I can't find it in my email, so give me a second.

00:04:18 Brandon A.

Take your time.

00:04:23 Jolly J.

So meanwhile, so this position is 100% sequel focused. You know, you're not going to be working on working on Python or any other ML, AI, at least for a bit. So is that something you're okay with.

00:04:47 Brandon A.

Yeah, of course. Even though I do have experience with ML and like machine like, you know, clustering algorithms, customer segmentation, stuff like that. So in the future, I could definitely bring it.

00:05:00 Jolly J.

expertise to the role as well sure i know this team they're looking to get into that space but at least not in the immediate let's say six to twelve months you're going to be working heavily with you know sql and they are looking for someone with expert level skills in sql when i say sql advanced functions ctes and window functions yeah window indexing yep optimization all that um and before i send this out um this position comes with benefits so when i say benefits if.

00:05:39 Jolly J.

you're looking for insurance you do have access to subsidized health dental vision you get um you get 13 days of google holidays paid and five days of personal time off or vacation paid as well now yeah so including these benefits like what is uh, target, pay rate on w2 what are you targeting oh yeah do you want the salary or hourly hourly please.

00:06:08 Brandon A.

yeah so i left to leave um at about 65 an hour and i was doing a lot of overtime so time and a half, um so anywhere and then the other interviews i've been doing um they've

ranged from like 60 to 75, um but i'm flexible on that especially given the client and the benefits as well and um, how do you have eight years eight well eight plus years of experience oh thank you that's what i was.

00:06:36 Jolly J.

going to ask but i uh okay um all right let me look to my role and see how far i can go because, most of my candidates are at 5-0 for this but give me a second let me stretch and see, i know i can do 55 but i'm just trying to see if there's any room there hold on google.

00:07:10 Jolly J.

krishna and this is within google play bi bi data group bi data science group, oh awesome yep and you're absolutely fine um working specific hours right yeah 100.

00:07:31 Brandon A.

percent yeah yeah at my previous company i was working some sometimes 8 a.m to 11 p.m eastern so i'm very very flexible okay i'm a i'm a night owl so yeah okay nice okay and then my friend actually works um not at google but at the subsidiary alphabet um one of the other ones, yeah which one it's the the aerospace really i forget what exactly oh that's fine yeah that's, Does like air like aerospace engineering or something airplane got it, okay.

00:08:06 Jolly J.

Yeah, all right, so we have your pj's And then I will also.

00:08:22 Brandon A.

Send you my it's a link. I have a portfolio website, so it just has some detail.

00:08:27 Jolly J.

I think is that the one that's in my year. Oh, yeah. Yeah name, right exactly. Yeah, it's just Brandon Okay, I think I just look yeah, I think I just look at that up. It was there on your LinkedIn response, so Okay, so the max that I'm able to do is 55 on w2 I don't have any room to go beyond that.

00:08:49 Brandon A.

Okay, yeah, I'm definitely I can make that work of course yeah.

00:08:54 Jolly J.

This is our own project, so yeah, I just wanted to make sure there's no, issues with you know deliverable or anything because yeah this is one of those critical high visible projects so i just want to make sure that you know once we submit there's no, issue at least in terms of the pay rate and things like that um and once i submit it gets locked within our system so there's no way that i can even ask for more and like you know the only.

00:09:26 Jolly J.

thing that i can i mean i just i'm just trying to be transparent here so in case if you get the offer and you ask for more then the position just gets stormed you know we won't be able to do anything and i've already stretched to the max so yeah 55 is going to be the max yeah and i yeah i.

00:09:43 Brandon A.

was saying yeah i also factor in because you know the health care and like the vacation like that's where that's you know worth a lot of money you know so i sure did that in as well so yeah okay.

00:09:53 Jolly J.

okay so coming back to the, rules so um. Let me send this one. I'm going to include the job rate confirmation as well. So you can ignore the hourly rate that's given there. I mean, it's given as 50, but I'm going to put in the rate confirmation as 55.

00:10:19 Brandon A.

Okay. Yeah, my best friend's a tech recruiter for Datadog. And so I'm very familiar with the ins and outs of all the processes that you guys have to do. It's a lot of work.

00:10:32 Jolly J.

It is.

00:10:33 Brandon A.

He loves it, though.

00:10:35 Jolly J.

Okay, so I just included the job description and the rate confirmation in one email. Okay, that's fine. So you can look at the job description. But as I said, this position, it's heavy with SQL. You know, they're looking, I mean, you are going to be working. with huge amount of data sets and the interview process what we have for this position it's going.

00:11:06 Jolly J.

to be three rounds of interviews the first one it's going to be a 30-minute scenario based interview the second one it's going to be a 30-minute SQL coding interview and the final one it's going to be a combination of the first and the second one that's going to be with the hiring manager himself and that is going to be again a 30-minute interview we are looking to fill at least two to three more positions as soon as possible I would say the interview turnaround.

00:11:41 Jolly J.

time is less than two weeks I'm targeting a mid-september start for these positions okay.

00:11:49 Brandon A.

that's perfect yeah I'm available as soon as yeah if you know if it works out and the process moves forward.

00:11:55 Jolly J.

yeah I'm available to work sure perfect and okay so, Coming back to the role, so you said you're comfortable, like your top skill is SQL. So how many years of experience do you have working with SQL.

00:12:09 Brandon A.

With SQL, direct hands-on experience, I would, well, I guess this eight, eight plus, I guess that would be like nine, like for this year, but I would just say eight plus. Yeah.

00:12:21 Jolly J.

Sure. Okay. So when you see SQL, that's so vast, right? So what do you work with like a lot.

00:12:29 Brandon A.

So I've worked with, yeah, so I've worked with various platforms like Google BigQuery, Microsoft Azure, and then as far as like, you know, the advanced SQL, like we previously mentioned, like CTEs, subqueries, indexing, you know, queries and stuff like that. Snowflake is my personal favorite platform. I actually was an early adopter back in 2018.

00:12:57 Jolly J.

Oh, can you? Can you send me a resume.

00:13:00 Brandon A.

let me take a look at that yeah of course um it's so i will is it okay if i um tailor it a bit um.

00:13:06 Jolly J.

oh yeah no worries at all yeah i'm actually looking pulling up your um i was gonna say.

00:13:11 Brandon A.

so that should be fine and i was gonna say if you want to take a glance at my website there's a resume kind of like a um like a general okay and you could take a peek there um but i'll also send out like a more tailored one but yeah oh yeah yeah that would be perfect but yeah snowflake and then um yeah just um that's i think that's pretty much sums up my sql experience i've been using it i was actually hired by um the vp of our it department at uga the university i went to.

00:13:41 Brandon A.

um he hired me out of his class and so i've been working with it since like 2015 2016.

00:13:51 Jolly J.

yeah and he was for uh dashboards reporting yeah so my go-to.

00:14:00 Brandon A.

um lately has been power bi um but tableau is also great i have experience with both um i would say i have more like years of experience with power bi um but i also like i would say four or five for tableau and then six or seven for power bi and i'm also certified for um for both as well nice okay.

00:14:28 Jolly J.

and um do you have a github profile um i do i i actually don't have my um like i'm i'm actually.

00:14:43 Brandon A.

working on a couple of personal projects that um but one is like it's a like an app that i might monetize so it's not public but i do have a few projects i need to publish on github so i can i.

00:14:56 Jolly J.

can do that as well yeah please go ahead, head I mean for any such data roles I would I mean it's my personal preference not mandatory but I would try to you know include that in the submittal as well just to showcase like you, know like really hands-on you know out of box not just stuck with a corporate like work I don't.

00:15:18 Brandon A.

know but it's just my preference no I've been meaning to update it anyways yeah I just got.

00:15:25 Jolly J.

the github pro sure okay no worries and did you get a chance to go over the job description yeah.

00:15:36 Brandon A.

I was just kind of reading it and yeah it aligns pretty much with what I've been doing and also I know you mentioned it's gonna be SQL heavy for the first six to twelve months and then I do see.

00:15:50 Jolly J.

I mean this position itself and the only reason I said is the team might be moving on to the other is, I know so this team does, I was hired like a lot of data analysts and in one of the calls we were told like, you know, we might need somebody coming in from a data science background in the future. So that's my only reasoning why I said that. But otherwise, you know, even in the interviews, it's going to be just SQL, SQL.

00:16:20 Jolly J.

You're not going to hear anything else from any of these interviewers. They just want to know, you know, I mean, the interview process. I mean, I myself have a screening question, which they want me to complete. They just want to know how creative you can, because you're going to be working with cross-functional teams, heavy with a lot of stakeholders. And with these clients, it's hard to really fetch data from all these stakeholders. So this team particularly, during the interviews, they're going to really find out like how creative you can be and, you know,

00:16:57 Jolly J.

how you're going to be able to do all these things. How you're able to. come up with a

solution with minimal data that's provided to you okay yeah, and also your ability to really figure out you know figure out like figure out what data to you know to collect in order to get this out but because it's going to be given like you're going to be given access to vast amount but it's.

00:17:23 Brandon A.

not much right yeah so I was actually worn many hats like lean Six Sigma so probably you know process business process consultant and then database developers that like data modeling and ETL ELT so yeah everything like data analysis related like I've pretty much done hands-on you know work experience and in addition to yeah in addition to the the data science leaning skills but.

00:17:55 Brandon A.

I'm gonna focus on the SQL like we like you said so sure.

00:18:00 Jolly J.

Yeah. Um, so what kind of data have you really worked with.

00:18:05 Brandon A.

Yeah. So I've worked with, um, I worked in several different industries. Uh, so Turner broadcasting, so that's think like Nielsen, uh, viewing data. So who's watching what, when, where, and why, and, you know, trying to predict what they're going to watch and stuff like that. Um, as well as consumer retail data. Um, and then also, and that was at my most recent role as well as consumer demographic data. And, um, let's see the Home Depot.

00:18:37 Brandon A.

That was a lot of, you know, as you would imagine, product data. So SKUs, G10s, UPCs and stuff like that.

00:18:46 Jolly J.

Nice. Okay. How about your experience with Google Sheets.

00:18:50 Brandon A.

Oh yeah. I love, I love, um, the whole Google platform, like Sheets, Docs, um, you know, all of it. It's great. And proficient in Excel as well, but I know I know they probably don't like. Yeah, I'm actually a Google one pro subscriber and yeah, the platform is amazing like Gemini and everything so oh.

00:19:23 Jolly J.

And Nice. And.

00:19:30 Brandon A.

What is your work authorization status Brandon? Yeah, so I'm authorized to work. I'm a US citizen and I don't require any sponsorship.

00:19:39 Jolly J.

Thank you. And, How is your availability to do the first round of interview? Starting tomorrow. I would say Friday Monday Tuesday.

00:19:51 Brandon A.

Um, yeah, so I'm actually out of town, but I can and I'm planning to come out come back, Yeah, I'm just came last night dog, it and I'll sit for a friend but I should you want me to call next week or well no I was gonna say I'm gonna either be coming and coming back home tonight or tomorrow so I would probably say Monday but I don't want what do you think I don't want to if there's other can I know that's fine I mean I can let.

00:20:19 Jolly J.

the team know that you know you're traveling so that's not a big deal because I don't want you to put in your time I mean even today's this call you know if you'd have told I would have actually next week oh yeah I don't mind.

00:20:32 Brandon A.

that I was excited to learn more about it and yeah early Monday whenever so.

00:20:42 Jolly J.

most of us are in Pacific time zone so you know I would prefer like towards the you know second half of Eastern yeah that's perfect so until what time are.

00:20:54 Brandon A.

you available so I'm wide open Monday pretty much any time I typically work, um you know work on leads and stuff like that until 7 p.m um so any pretty much any time yeah.

00:21:09 Jolly J.

okay so six seven okay so can i give um let's say i could go later too yeah i think that should be fine um so let me uh can i give between nine and two pacific so that's going to be 10 11 12 to 5 yeah that's right that's actually perfect yeah okay um so can i give the same time for tuesday as well yeah i'm free um both monday and tuesday okay all right um so this is going.

00:21:46 Jolly J.

to be scenario based as i said first first interview and this is with our service delivery manager she manages most of the google data projects um any question for me.

00:22:00 Brandon A.

Yeah, so, um, I've, you know, I've, my previous role exposed me to a lot of, you know, I was on the, on the data reporting analytics team presenting business insights to, you know, C-level executives almost daily. I've worked, you know, worked on some projects for our COO and then also the CEO of the company. Um, so what's, I know, I know Google's, you know, a huge company, um, but what is it, you know, are there any opportunities from like, you know, for visibility as far as presenting or, um, I guess maybe that may come later on in the role.

00:22:40 Jolly J.

So it depends. I mean, with Google, it's like, you know, once you prove yourself, there's no limit. Um, I mean, with these I've had, I've seen, I've been supporting, so I'm with the company for 10 years. Oh, congratulations. That's awesome. Thank you. And I've been... Google since I joined on and off but last couple years it's like you know I'm kind of dedicated to supporting Google and Apple these are the two clients I.

00:23:10 Jolly J.

primarily support very lucky you must be so I've seen people could move up but again keep in mind these are contract rules and these doesn't really convert to a permanent position these are straight contract only however as a vendor we did.

00:23:40 Jolly J.

not place any restrictions so in case if you come across any you know if you come across any full-time position current position within the same team or even you know or even outside the state, within Google, that's something you're going to work directly with Google team. So that's a possibility. Awesome. Yeah, that is. I mean, we don't face any restriction.

00:24:10 Jolly J.

Now coming back to your question regarding presentations and everything, I assume yes. This position, keep in mind, it's heavy data analytics focused. So it could be minimal, but again, I can't even think of a data analysis position without any presentation. So presenting to stakeholders, I believe that could be a huge thing. And that's a good question to be asked in the first round of interview when you meet with service delivery manager, because she'll be able to provide you with more information.

00:24:41 Brandon A.

Yeah. And are you able to provide her name of the interviewer.

00:24:47 Jolly J.

Yeah. I mean, yeah, her name's Nikki. It's N-I-K-K-I D-I-M-A-N is her last name. D-I-M-A-N.

00:24:56 Brandon A.

Awesome.

00:24:57 Jolly J.

Cool. Okay. re-manager but she manages most of the data projects within google okay awesome and then.

00:25:07 Brandon A.

i'm i was gonna ask the tech stack but i'm assuming it's mostly you know google analytics.

00:25:11 Jolly J.

google bigquery um yeah and you're going to be working with you know like the dashboards i know google has their internal dashboard like flex plx um but that's very similar to you know i mean power bi or tableau if you have expertise with these two yeah it's going to be easy for you to.

00:25:29 Brandon A.

really yeah exactly i found like if i you know any kind of bi tool like looker like kind of translate experience but i would definitely um i think to prepare for the first round i'll you know definitely review sequel and then i might even take like a course on you call it was plex.

00:25:47 Jolly J.

right yeah it's plx so that's i mean yeah i mean as i said i wouldn't even look into that because you know that's minimal like it's not going to, come into the any of these interviews oh okay okay cool yeah so these interviews are heavy like as i said first so in the scenario-based question the kind of questions you can expect is like um, what if you have to investigate a sudden significant spike in a customer churn you know what data points would you be looking into so it's kind of like oh yeah figuring out.

00:26:22 Brandon A.

your thought process yeah like because like um how many days they've been like customer tenure customer lifetime value stuff like i've actually done that exact thing for yeah that's why i asked.

00:26:33 Jolly J.

like what kind of data have you worked with i think you mentioned like product data demographic you know so it's going to be very scenario-based second when we get to the second round i can definitely give you more pointers like sql i think they have about three questions most of the candidates complete two questions um i think you know some of them are able to get to three but the expectation is you complete two and those are like advanced, level with cd, and you know those are the kind of questions that they have for sequel part okay awesome okay so coming back so I would need your resume so you can just.

00:27:11 Jolly J.

respond to the email that I shared for the rate confirmation confirming the rate and also send me your updated resume if you can send me a word copy that's perfect it makes it easy for me to format yeah and do you have any other.

00:27:29 Brandon A.

questions for me um i'm sure i'll have like a few after soon as we hang out but no i think that we covered pretty much everything um i'm excited about this opportunity trying to think if there's anything else oh the team structure do you know about how i know you said that they were hiring a few more resources do.

00:27:49 Jolly J.

you know what the structures like and I know, one of my no we have at least two other resources working on the same project okay we have yeah um, we have um yeah so two others and then i think you guys you're going to be working with few other.

00:28:14 Brandon A.

google full timers okay awesome and then i guess this might be a question to ask um maybe during the interview but um what kind of like data and like is the project involved with there's that you know a question for when i get the job or maybe for the interview so what kind of data you'll be working with yeah like customers like customer behavior yeah i mean since it's google.

00:28:42 Jolly J.

i assume it's going to be like it could be any like you know like analytics or like you know yeah product based even even um for this one i'm not sure how it is because we just filled another position which is more of the you know monetization one right that was in, google play you know vendors thing i i'm not very sure about the kind of data but again in the first round of interview you'll be able to you know find that info okay well awesome i think.

00:29:12 Brandon A.

yeah i think you answered all my questions i i have one like personal one for you how do you like living in seattle i've always wanted to visit i've just never had a chance it's it's a.

00:29:23 Jolly J.

good place i mean i actually moved from southern california a couple years ago oh my gosh i was just in san diego i love southern i used to live in irvine oh yeah okay yeah so seattle i mean i not my favorite because it i mean the last couple days it's been like very hot oh um yeah but otherwise it's i don't like the winters here yeah i can imagine like cold and like maybe rainy i know so that's the only thing and you know but otherwise it's a good place to live.

00:29:58 Jolly J.

i, would say.

00:30:00 Brandon A.

Awesome. Yeah, Atlanta's pretty cool, but sometimes it gets a little too hot, but awesome.

00:30:06 Jolly J.

I mean, I love hot weather. I mean, you know.

00:30:08 Brandon A.

Same. I'm from the south, so I'm from, like, south Georgia, so I'm the same way.

00:30:12 Jolly J.

Oh, okay.

00:30:14 Brandon A.

Yeah.

00:30:14 Jolly J.

Yeah, so I think that's the only thing that I'm not, you know, like, much into when it gets cold. I'm like, oh, it's cold.

00:30:23 Brandon A.

Yeah, that's understandable. Understandable. But, yeah, well, I appreciate your time. I don't want to take too much of your time off, but, yeah, I'm looking forward to putting something on the calendar, and, yeah.

00:30:35 Jolly J.

Sure, yeah, so please go ahead and send me a resume, because I would need that, so please update your resume and send that over, and I'll go ahead and get you submitted, and the way it works is when I submit, I will be sending over your availability to interview, and we'll just go ahead and send you the interview invite. Okay. Thank you so much for having me. schedule please reach out to me and I'll work on rescheduling with her okay.

00:31:05 Brandon A.

perfect and last question what's your preferred method of contact your phone.

00:31:09 Jolly J.

or text I know you're gonna get an unusual response but either call or text because for some reasons I have so many unread emails 24-7 same my inbox was like a thousand you know and yeah I would respond 100% to those awesome well.

00:31:34 Brandon A.

thanks again Jolly and I'll get my resume over to you I'm just gonna tailor it a little bit but it shouldn't take more than 15 minutes or 20 minutes yeah.

00:31:42 Jolly J.

perfect all right and if any other questions come up please feel free to.

00:31:45 Brandon A.

reach out to me this is my direct number awesome thanks again Jolly looking for.

00:31:49 Jolly J.

you thank you you take care, thank you