What to Expect: Interviewing for an Intern Role

A prep document for candidates applying to Pinterest's Machine Learning Intern roles.

Interview process

1. A Machine Learning assessment with our technical assessment partner, CodeSignal (Length: 70 minutes)
You will complete a proctored coding assessment covering a range of skills, including coding proficiency, familiarity with machine learning fundamentals, and data manipulation. The assessment may cover topics such as ensemble learning, evaluation metrics, and classifier architecture. Candidates are reviewed at each stage by hiring teams.

2. Recruiter phone screen (Length: 20 minutes)
Your recruiter will use this call to discuss your previous work and interests. They will have a list of questions to get to know you better, including your motivations for an ML role at Pinterest and your interests within ML. They will also answer all of your questions related to the interview process and working at Pinterest. Video is optional.

3. A Machine Learning focused interview via Google Meet with a Pinterest engineer (Length: 1 hour)
The goal is to assess your understanding of ML by answering a data/algos coding question using CoderPad. We are looking for candidates that are able to break down complex problems and implement creative algorithms using ML techniques. Remember to ask clarifying questions before you begin! You will discuss your technical background, answer a few ML based questions and spend around 30-40 minutes on a coding question.

4. [ATG Teams] A Domain Specific Interview with a Pinterest Machine Learning Engineer (Length: 60 minutes)
Depending on the team, you will either have a Computer Vision, recommender systems, or responsible AI focused interview. Your recruiter will share more information about this specific interview ahead of time. Take time to use the Pinterest app and think through what you like about your experience, what you would change, and how computer vision & recommender systems plays a role in your experience on the app.

4. 1-2 hiring manager interviews (Length: 30 minutes each)
We want to understand your interests and share the exciting work our engineers are doing. This call will give you a chance to connect with hiring managers and/or team members to explore your interests.

Accommodations: If you require medical or religious accommodation during the job application process, please complete this form for support.

What we're looking for

Technical and practical abilities. Apply technical and practical skills to real-world problems, and are comfortable discussing solutions both at a high level and in production-level code.

High-quality and efficient code. Write clean, efficient, and well-structured code, in line with established standards.

Collaboration and ownership skills. If an interviewer gives you hints to improve your code, use them to improve your code and demonstrate your adaptability and collaborative approach.. Ask questions, restate the problem and run through sample input.

How you think and solve problems. Think aloud when tackling problems, identifying inefficiencies and proposing improvements that allow us to understand your approach and creativity. Make sure to use descriptive variable and function names along the way and showcase your collaborative skills with your interviewer.

Familiarity with Pinterest. Take the time to learn about Pinterest's mission and technologies, and you are excited about working with us.

Resources to set you up for success

We provide access to practice tests and resources, so everyone has a chance to become familiar with our interview platforms and style. Explore our Engineering Blog, Life at Pinterest, and technical prep materials to help you feel confident and ready.

- Review our ML Interview FAQs

- Take a [practice test](#) with CodeSignal and watch our CodeSignal [prep video.](#)
- Familiarize yourself with [CoderPad](#), the technical interview platform we use.
- Browse through our [Pinterest Engineering Blog](#) and [Life at Pinterest Blog](#).
- Read our [Pinterview Pro: Machine Learning](#) article for some interview tips.
- Prepare for the technical interview by practicing with Pinterest's RETIRED Data Structures & Algorithms questions! [Number of islands of 1s](#) | [Task Scheduler](#) | [Neardups](#) | [Find the celebrity](#) | [Merge k Sorted Lists](#) |