**YASH**

hi,

Nice project...i hope it will surely be selected for the interviews.

sorry for delay as i was out of town for 5 days...

preparation of interview is not important. even u cannot prepare for it as you don't know what kind of question they may ask. This time u will be called from IISc for interview,werea s we were called from IITB.

They ask question regarding ur project. u can prepare well for ur project. They are more interested in ur research aptitude ,and hey will concentrated more on concept of ur project. They may ask question about your previous projects,u did in school.(i started my answer like:" when i was in 5th class i made my first toy car .......till projects i did in college.)

They may ask you question which may sound funny.U have to be cool and should not be tensed. and if u don't know some answer don't panic say i don't know with confidence.

Interview is something which is about times. so no need to prepare for it,do it as on the spot event,u will surely do well.

Just brush up ur concept before interviews..

feel free to send me mail when ever u r in any doubt....

All the best

-Yask

hello,

congratulation for interview call...

asking doubts or seeking advice is never a task of disturbing others....its my pleasure that i am getting such mails from students all over india..

My interview was held at IITB ....there might be difference in interview as urs is conducted by IISC.

I am sharing my views for interview.

your resume is impressive...it is nice that you have done many projects...

CV was not asked in IITB and may be at IISc they will not look at it...

The things which matter is the project done by you....

they will ask u about project u did for kvpy and they might ask about project u did earlier...

It is very necessary to be honest in each and every point you say..

Most important thing is u don't have to talk such that u r appreciating ur own work...i.e over smartness will not help and may create problem...

Be grounded, simple and genuine...

be relaxed...this interview will not be like normal interview...u can express each and every thing...

try to bring out ur innovative projects in front of them if asked on....

They are going to test ur "research aptitude" ....so focus on the project u made for kvpy...

U should know about its flaws....and don't hesitate to share problem regarding ur project in front of them...

I remember many of the students had 1 hr interview and they felt they made it....

but my interview was only 20 min... so its quality talk rather than quantity talk...

Best of luck for interview...feel free to ask any doubt...

U can take my mob no:9726394847

About fare...they will return u train fare.... in spite u have come via plane...u have to just show them train ticket...they will pay u for train charge of shortest route....

All the best

-Yask

**SREYSHI**

Yes! Definitely you should tell them all about your other projects. In fact they'll ask you.

Yeah sure...they'll be impressed if you can show them further works than what you've submitted.

Hi!

The questions will be totally based on your project. There wasn't any probing questions in my time. So you needn't worry about your plus 2 science knowledge if it's not relevant to your project. I can't really state sample questions, because, like I said, its individual project dependent. If you want to show any electronic document, you better carry your laptop. There will be a projector, but you won't need it since the interview takes place in a small room with only 3 or 4 jury members. They won't encourage an elaborate electronic presentation.

About my project, I used nano-porous materials to store H2.

As to why kvpy reports aren't available on the net, I can't find an answer too. Whether you should keep your project confidential or not is completely up to you.

**PRANABH**

OK, so you all have done the more difficult thing right and have been called up for the Interview. From a cohort of nearly 1500-1600 people, only 50 odd have been picked and now is the time to hand pick the chosen ones. From my personal experiences, the KVPY interview was one of its kind. Of course, I had taken the interview at New Delhi, ICMR office, and now this year it will be in IISc Bangalore, so some things are bound to change. The AIIMSonians will not be able to carry in their usual swagger of knowing half the people on the Interview board, for one thing (at least I hope so!) and maybe for a change, they will be grilled as much as they rest (no disrespect intended, but I have always thought that with the game being played on their home turf, the AIIMSonians aways had some sort of an unfair advantage!)… whatever, coming back to the topic at hand!

My experience was that the KVPY Interview is a class apart! It is entirely different from any kind of interview or examination that you may have encountered in your medical careers. The main important difference being in the way the KVPY judges you from all aspects of your presence: from your body language to your demeanor to your project and how you handle queries regarding the same!

In this account, I would like to mention some general principles that might be handy for you when you go for the KVPY interview.

DRESS CODE:

It is compulsory to be well-dressed. When I say that a bohemian like me clad up in formal shirt, trousers and blazer for the occasion, you will understand what I am talking about. The way you dress sends across a message to the Interveiwers as well. A suggestion sideways: if, like me, you are unable to knot a tie, then do not wear one. But remember to keep your buttons up if you are not wearing a tie! Do remember to get your shoes polished because if you are wearing chic clothes with dusty worn shoes, well, it indicates you are a person with not too much of an eye for details, and that is not the best thing to portray to an interview board who would be judging you on your ability to carry out research!

Looking good... try it in a more "traditional" way!

GRAND ENTRY:

Remember, you will be judged from the VERY MOMENT you step your foot in that room. My project was regarding music and stuff (See My Research) and as soon as I entered, one of them quipped: “Oh, so we have a musician here!” Not to be beaten down, I riposted: “Well, of sorts, sir!”

It is very important that you take your own time and not rush into the chair. Do not act like it is an electric chair (though it probably is!) and instead have a steady gait towards the seat. If it is anything like what was back in Delhi. the seat will be placed at the focus of a parabola, of 10-12 interviewers – an arrangement which is pretty sure to rough up the best of us! So, even if you are tensed, do not betray it in your gait, don’t scuffle like you have Parkinsonism (unless you really have it) or sway like you just got off the bar or even swagger in like you were an olympic medal winner!!!

Just keep it cool. Remember, they are watching you!

BODY LANGUAGE:

In any interview, there are some cardinal rules on how to handle your appendages. Dont flop them around like you have Huntington’s Chorea when you are talking. try to keep them gathered on your lap, look into the eyes of your questioner, but be careful with the gaze. It should niether be the way you would look at Deepika Padukone or those breasts above or the Beasts of fury unleashed. It should be normal human look. Do not look at your feet when answering the questions, the answers are NOT written there.

Do not lean back in the chair, no matter how plushy it is. Sit ramrod straight and be attentive, let your attentiveness pour out every sweat gland instead of bad body odor for those few minutes. Be relaxed, but remember that it is an interview and not your drawing room or worse, bathroom.

Do NOT cross your legs in front of the examiners unless you are Sharon Stone and this is Basic Instinct. Remember, these people are like hawks and will monitor every little move, every involuntary twitch and every body language-verbal articulation dysrhythm they find.

Remain cool, calm and collected. Even if there is a question which worries you or turns nasty, do not let it show physically. Do not flinch. Do not pull your hair like a trichotillomaniac. Do not start scratching your head like a flea bitten mongrel. Do not “start digging for gold”. Do not start probing the ear canal (or for that matter any other bodily orifice that draws your fancy!). If you have Red Rackham’s beard, try to keep it in order and do not let it start flying around… In short, stay human!

WHAT WILL THEY LOOK FOR?

Basically, they will approach to grill you from two angles:

1. How apt you are for a career in research.

2. Different aspects of your research and how it is in concordance with your academic performance.

As for the first, you have to show a strong conviction. For example, I was asked what I wanted to do in the future. I replied that I wanted to build a career in translational research. One of the Interviewers. almost incredulously noted, that researchers were a breed of overrated and underachieving scapegoats. Now, that is a tricky question, because there are research folks AND clinicians on the board, and the right answer should not offend anyone. I don’t know the right answer to such questions, and I do not think anyone really does, but I answered that if I moved into medicine or surgery, I would be quickly labelled into a stereotyped bracket thanks to today’s age of superspecialization and would end up either cutting gut or treating coughs or AMIs for the greater part of my life. But with the kind of hyperactive person I was, I would get bored to death by that kind of professionally starved yet financialy rewarding career. Instead, in research I would have the ability to branch out, explore and widen my horizon of vision, face new challenges – in short, it would give me the rollercoaster of a ride I wanted my life to be like!!!

Then suddenly, one of the interviewers startd grilling me on an entirely different aspect. He asked me where I was from and on knowing it was Kokata, he promptly settled down into a long drawn discussion about cholera and public health methods on how to control it. I was not aware of the stuff back then since I was just in Second professional MBBS, so I had to rely on my common sense to deliver me.

The bottomline is – be prepared for anything and stay confident. Even if the interviewers fly off on a tangent during the session, it is most probably to check your ability to veer directions and keep up with the flow.

If there is something that you do not know, accept it hat you do not know it, and do not be sorry for it. You have been selected to go thus far: you must be worth something. There is this thing about certain interviewers that wants to mae you kill yourself after the show, but do not let them get to you. Instead, try to play their own game. Stay confident. The worst that can happen is that you wouldnt get selected. So what? Big deal!

CONFIDENCE:

If there is one key element that can counter the interview mess, it is confidence. When I was asked which college I came from, I replied “Medica College, Kolkata”. One ofthe interviewers noted, with screwed eyebrows: “Just that! You college has no proper name?” I was not one to be shot down so easy, so I hit back:”Well, you see, when my college was established, there were no other medical colleges in the whole of Asia, and so they just decided to go ahead and simply call it Medical College bengal, now which is called Kolkata…”

The whole time of the interview, I was confident of myself, whether admitting the fact that there were lacunae in my projects or lashing out to the AIIMS faculty that I thought my medical school was the best, I did not, for once, step down on the pedal of intensity! I would suggest that such an approach, if carried out with moderation and careful monitoring is good enough to beat up any interview, not just VPY, but the imporant thing is that you should know where to draw the line!

YOUR PROJECT:

Remember that it was your project that got you there, not your fancy dress, your upstartish smartness or your jaunty walk. So, take care to know it back to front. Remember that EVERY MEMBER will have a copy of your project in their hands. And will grill you directly therefrom. I would advise you to learn by heart all the essential results and do a background study on the different kinds of research methods (analytical and experimental epidemiology methods), which one your study fell under and what were the advantages and disadvantages of the same. Remember to note why you did what you did and whether there were any other better methods to accomplish the same goals, If yes, then why did you not take them up? Do you have any future plans regarding this topic? What areas are you especially fond of? What new things did you learn by doing this project? How does it affect you approach or attitude towards academics, in general? Would you lie to work on more varied or concentrated fields?

If you have copy of your Application form (the one you sent with your project report first up) try to stay consistent with any tall claims you may have made there. We all do a bit of fudging here and there and as long as we can pull it off, no one is going to suspect anything and no one is going to be harmed, but, if you fudge hug areas, be warned, you will be doomed! It is always better to accept a lacuna than going on to cover up the issues big time. Be warned: If caught, you are dead, buried and forgotten!

Stay straight, stay focussed!

ROUNDING IT OFF:

The walk back is as important as the walk in. It is only professional attitud that you thank them for having given you the opportinity to be there, to have selected you from the multitude of applicants. Hell, even if you do not make through, you happen to be within the top 5% of the medical student fraternity in India at the same leve as you… that is something! So, even if your interview has been a mess, remember to thank the people. try to judge if any of the interviewers have been impressed by your presence. Thank tyhem by looking directly at them, and for the rest, look bang into the middle of the group, somewhere around the bloated tummy of the guy in the middle!

There will be a mix of male and female interviewers, so remember to be gender-wise in your addressal. You would not want to be lalbelled a male/female chauvinist (put the name of the animal of your choice).

IN ESSENCE:

The KVPYInterview is a phenomenon. Do not get awed by it. Try to stay calm. Try to know where the interview is heading. If you cannot control the proceedings of the interview, try to at least stay afloat. Do not say something that might make you want to put your foot in your mouth. Speak proper correct English and not the “Yo Dude!” stuff that you may usually do. If you are not very spontaneous with English, do not worry. It is, after all, just an alien language. Try to make short and sensible sentences. Try to stay grammatically correct. Start speaking with your friend in Engish right NOW (yes, even if they call youa snob, do it. it helpes. Helped me immensely!) Do not hury through. Be deliberate and if any time you are crossed and get wrong footed, try to salvage some pride out of it. For example, at one point of time said “Forensic Medicine too kmy fancy… blah blah blah….” and after I competed an interviewer said “Fancy, eh… so do you mean to say that you are unable to focus??” I had made the grave error of saying something out of the line, but then I replied, saying: “Well, by fancy, I meant I felt attracted to Forensic because here there is a eement of using your intellect and intuition to arrive at conclusions from given facts – that was a challenge which was palpably absent from all he other subjects I have studied so far, so I felt drawn to it moe than the others. And no, I do not have a problem focussing. I am able to concentrate on problems and work on them and solve them even when they appear insurmountable” and then gave an example from how my project was getting screwed and I had to start thinking out of the box to save it!

THE FINAL WORDS:

These are just a few basic guidelines, and probably the only reliable document around on the net, since I did not find any before my Interview. I was selected as a mentored fellow by the KVPY and consider that to be one of the best academic honors in my career.

I would like to wish all of you the very best for the interviews and just hope that you come out with flying colors, and then again, remind you, that even if you do not, that is not an issue, because te fact remains, whatever be the results, try to enjoy the experience, savor the feel, mae some new friends and in general, find a place for your passion!

Thanks and Cheers!

**SREYASHI**

Now, there are certain very frightening stereotype ideas about KVPY interviews! I tried speaking to some KVPY Fellows prior to my interview, and the picture I got was terrifying! Attending the interview changed my idea which I’m going to share with everyone for the benefit of future KVPY applicants. The reason is that everyone heading for it wants to know how the general procedure is and the best way to find an answer now is Google. So they start searching frantically with as many various combinations of words as possible…I did too…but unfortunately did not come up with satisfactory results. Dr. Pranab Chatterjee showed up always (everyone who has googled with ‘kvpy’ will agree). Although his experience gave us some idea, it was specifically for candidates in the Medical stream and typically for the boys (sorry about this Pranab, but that’s what I felt. Although it is a fact that boys outnumber girls largely here, but you could have given equal footing to both. Anyway, I’ll do it.). He suggested I should write for the future Engineering candidates…so here I am…I hope you find this in time.

I’d say the interview was easy going…nothing to be tensed about it. It is more of a cordial discussion with the interview board regarding your work rather than a tightened question-answer round. For every one of us this time, we were asked to explain our project to the board. They just wanted to see how well we can deliver our work across the table. They listened very attentively when we spoke and cross-questioned here and there to clarify some points. We weren’t asked very probing questions or high level subject based questions…just the basics. When the Head of the KVPY Cell of IIT Bombay introduced us to the system at the beginning, he said that selecting a limited number of applications from the bulk was very careful and strict, but now all they want to figure out is whether the project is genuinely done by the candidate, how well he/she is versed with the work, and whether he/she possesses the potential for a career in research.

Now I want to clarify some biased conceptions about the interview.

It is not a job interview. So how you dress doesn’t matter as long as you are decent enough to present yourself before the respected Professors. This is not what I have to say, but the Head of the KVPY Cell of IIT Bombay himself said this in his initial interaction with us. So, I need not have dressed in a formal suit, a decent salwar-kameez would have been ok…but, yes, respect for tradition is always preferred.

Pranab Chatterjee wrote in his blog that the board has a hawk’s eye to everything about you-how you walk, talk, look etc. Maybe that is true for the Medical students, but believe me, for the Engineering people it’s just casual. Definitely a confident body language has its own merits, but that can’t be considered to be of utmost importance. What is important is your knowledge about your work and the genuineness of your project.

Your English might not be fluent…so what? That shouldn’t crush your confidence! Professors themselves said we could be free to deliver in any language…not all though…it’s practically impossible to accommodate all Indian languages…but Hindi and most of South Indian languages were welcomed.

The Professors in the interview board were very friendly and made us feel easy. There were smiles and jokes. In fact I was offered biscuits after my interview was over…so informal it is! Average time of interview per head was 20min. There was this guy from IIT Kharagpur, Sarbartha, who was the only one to stay in the board for 45min.

Questions will be asked from your project only…at least that was the case this time. A KVPY scholar frightened me by saying that we may be interrogated from any field as varied as history and geography. This completely freaked me out! I was relieved to find out otherwise.

Whatever I said was my experience at IIT Bombay. Venue of the Interview changes every year, and so might be everything related to it. I don’t mean to frighten you by saying this; I guess it’ll be more or less the same. My suggestion is that you should be extremely well versed with your project. The rest is a matter of chance.

Regarding project topics, application based simple projects rank higher than theoretical ones. So, think of your day-to-day life and how you can solve some problems often faced. For example, this time there was this guy Rohit, who worked on automatic drainage of waste that often plugs the basins and sinks in our house. Jose Dominic’s project was to improve the four legged walker for the crippled and aged to make it suitable to climb or descend a flight of stairs. Soujanya designed a soft keyboard for typing in Tamil. My project was a bit higher up…it was on how to store Hydrogen gas in a cost effective manner to use it as future fuel. Lakshmi’s was a similar project on bio-diesel. Ish had a theoretical project on optimisation of power for energy conservation…it just didn’t penetrate my brain box! Some guys like Utkarsh and GV had pure maths projects and they had one-to-one interview and the Professor somehow told them that they’ll get a Mentorship.

Anyway, the post is becoming too long, I’ll stop here. That’s all I had to say about the legendary KVPY interviews. All the best if you are an applicant. Probably I did not miss out on anything…if I did I promise to include it later on. All I’d say is make right use of the opportunity, enjoy, make friends and treasure them…this is a life-time experience…and a life changing one too. Take care!

Hi Ranjan!

About how many students will be selected, for our stream the professors said the number of scholars will be a maximum of 10…and another 10-15 will be the mentored candidates…..this is out of 57…..i guess the numbers will not vary much… The basis of selection is on how well u can convince the panel about your scientific bent of mind and your will to take up science and research as career… Rejection is on the basis of….you know….struggle for existence… … Enjoy the experience….good luck!