Princetonn Interview Preparation

# Why Princeton?

* The culture
  + I have grown a great deal from being on a specialized track and with a cohort in my highschool and I look forward to a tight-knit environment within which to form meaningful relationships with students in all areas of study. Another aspect I am looking forward to is the close relationships with faculty that Columbia encourages. I have benefited enormously from the mentorship of my teachers in the past and hope to engage with professors at Princeton in similar ways.
* The academics
  + MY STORY WITH COMPUTER SCIENCE
    - In my junior year of highschool I discovered an algorithm lecture series online. I binge watched them until I got stuck on an algorithm designed to uncover differences between texts. In trying to figure it out I came across an article on its application to analyzing DNA sequences of individuals from different species. I was fascinated by the application of this method across disciplines and challenged myself to do the same with the algorithms I was learning. That evening I had an epiphany; one of the topics that I was struggling most with was balancing complicated chemical equations. I wrote a program that applied classic computer science to the balancing problem. I started using it in class and my friends found it very useful. Since that day, I step back at every opportunity and ask myself how what I am studying connects to what I know about computer science and how potential connections may change my understanding of the problem. I look forward to combine studies in computer science and biochemistry.
  + Columbia’s Computer Science Department program in Computational Biology offers an incredible opportunity to mix my two passions, CS and biochemistry.
  + I want to work alongside the likes of Itsik Pe'er, who works on how changes to DNA sequencing affect biological processes.
    - Developing methods for analysis of high throughput sequencing data
  + Moreover, I am excited by the opportunity to intern at the Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics and the other health-oriented departments.
    - My story and Itsik and **scoliosis**
      * Study of protein-protein and protein-DNA interactions
      * Gene expression analysis and prediction of regulatory network structure
    - Related to reindi
      * Knowledge extraction from scientific literature and medical reports
* The opportunities
  + With everything I learn from these opportunities I want to start a company that generates a positive social impact. Columbia can provide me with the tools necessary to achieve this through its robust entrepreneurship program.
  + One of the examples of this support that encouraged me was the launch of Droice, the Columbia born drug analysis company that went from idea to production in twelve months through the participation in the Columbia Venture Competition, in which I hope to compete.

# What I learned from my most difficult challenge

I acknowledge and I am very grateful for the positive effect of those who supported me and helped me cope. My experience with scoliosis made me realize how it feels to be different and misunderstood, and recognize the massive importance of being sensitive to the feelings and circumstances of others.

# Questions

* Were you part of any international students organization?
* How would you describe the culture at Columbia? Does it feel weird to be a foreigner?
* Were your professors approachable? Did you feel you could ask them things or even talk about topics not related directly to your classes?
* Which part of the Princeton experience do you believe had the biggest influence on you? Did you keep in touch with other alumni?
* What was you favorite part of studying at Princeton?