Reliance Foundation
SCHOLARSHIPS

Useful Tips For Virtual Interviews

1. Overview of Reliance Foundation Scholarships

The Reliance Foundation Scholarship (RFS) in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Computer Sciences aims to empower talented Indian youth and seeks to build a community of new scholars who will become India's global leaders of tomorrow. The time is ripe, and the tools are ready to make India a world leader in Artificial Intelligence, and to make new technologies work for all Indians. India has the unique advantage to harness enormous capital for AI driven development, which is bottom up and inclusive, because of our twin strengths of demographics and democracy.

Talent will be central to helping achieve this vision and through the Reliance Foundation scholarship, we aspire to support the most exceptional undergraduate and postgraduate scholars working in the fields of Artificial Intelligence and Computer Sciences with the highest potential to become India's global future leaders, uniquely positioned to sit at the forefront of India's technology driven growth.

Scholarship Values

The Reliance Foundation Scholarship in Artificial Intelligence and Computer Sciences is looking for scholars who embody the following values.

- **Excellence**: Scholars who are committed to excellence, in spirit and action, in everything they pursue, both academic and non-academic. Scholars who have a mindset of giving their best, seeking new and better ways to approach challenges and continually work to improve themselves.
- **Leadership Potential**: Scholars who have the potential and ambition to become India's and the World's Leaders of Tomorrow.
- Integrity: Scholars who strive to be honest and forthright. They take accountability and responsibility for their actions, decisions, and behaviour.
- **Community Commitment**: Scholars who show a moral force of character and instinct to lead in their communities for the advancement of society. Scholars who have a commitment to work for social good and give back to society.
- **Growth Mindset**: Embodying Reliance's spirit that "Growth is Life" we are looking for scholars that dream big and have an ever-evolving spirit. They possess a love of learning and continually striving to develop and improve themselves and support others to do the same.
- **Courage**: Scholars who are resilient, patient, and tenacious. Students who embrace challenges with passion and conviction as opportunities to grow.

2. Useful Tips for Virtual Interviews

Congratulations once again on being shortlisted for the interview stage for the Scholarship. Here are some useful tips for your virtual interview:

2.1 Test Your Technology in Advance

Virtual interviews rely heavily on technology. Use this checklist to test your technology a few days before your interview:

- Establish a strong internet connection. If possible, make arrangements for a second connection as a backup in case of any connectivity issues on the day of the interview.
- It is advisable to take the interview on your computer or laptop, rather than on a hand held device.
- Perform an audio and visual check to confirm that your microphone and camera are working properly. Download any necessary

software, and check the speakers. Make a note of the computer's audio and visual setting that gives the best results.

- Subpar video and audio quality will harm your chances of making a good impression. In the worst-case scenario, technical issues could prevent the interview from happening at all.

2.2 Prepare Your Video Interview Space

Here is a checklist you can use to create a distraction-free environment:

- Inform all family members about the scheduled time for your interview.
- Set up your computer so you are against a blank background. This keeps the attention on you.
- If your room is dark and you need to keep a light on, pay attention to the placement of your lighting. Your face should be in maximum light.
- Close the windows to eliminate road noises.
- Close your room door to muffle noises from inside the home.
- Turn off your mobile phone. Receiving a phone call or even a text mid-way through the interview can be very distracting for you and the panellists.
- Clear away all visible clutter and tidy up your surroundings. You want to appear organized. Remove anything overly personal or potentially inappropriate or controversial in the background. Do not use screen savers to camouflage your background, this will be extremely distracting for the panellists.

2.3 Dress Professionally

Please dress as if you are at an in-person interview. You want to convey your professionalism - dressing smartly is one way to do this. Wear smart casual attire and pay attention to grooming.

2.4 Use Post-It Notes to Jot Down Talking Points

Jotting down talking points on Post-it notes and placing them on the edge of your computer screen can help. It's much better than clicking your keyboard or shuffling papers looking for your notes.
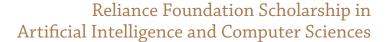
2.5 Do a Few Mock Virtual Interviews & Record Them

Do a few mock virtual scholarship interviews and try to record the sessions. Play back the recording to get insight on your set up and your performance. Was the audio clear or muffled? Was the visual clear or grainy? What about your body language? Were you sitting up straight or did you slouch throughout? Were you looking directly at the camera and the interviews or were you looking around the room? Did anything look out of place in the background? Did you speak clearly, articulating every word or did you rush through your replies?

2.6 Review the Scholarship Requirements and Your Application

Review all the scholarship requirements so you can refresh your memory and can speak to them during the interview with ease. Also read through your application, especially the essays you submitted. Do update the panellists if there is any significant change in your personal or academic situation since you submitted your application.

2.7 Research Reliance Foundation

Visit our website www.scholarships. reliancefoundation.org to understand more about the vision and values of the scholarship program, so you can align your answers to them during the interview.

2.8 Practise Common Interview Questions

Practice makes perfect. Go over some common interview questions and craft answers in advance.

- Tell us about yourself.
- What is your greatest achievement?
- Where do you see yourself in five years?
- How do you plan on using the money if you are awarded the scholarship?
- Why do you believe you deserve this scholarship?

2.9 Be 10 Minutes Early

Do not connect to the video interview at the last second. Start preparing for the call about 15 minutes before it begins. Turn on all the required technologies and get situated in your seat. Connect to the link provide about 10 minutes before the interview is scheduled to begin. Our back end team will welcome you to the call 10 minutes before the start of your interview.

2.10 Do Not Look Up Answers

Since you are using a computer for the interview you may be tempted to look up answers or refer to your notes. The interviewer can tell if your eyes are darting across a screen or if you pause to type. Trying to feign a technical issue to disguise the activity or turning off your microphone to mask typing sounds is hard to pull off. The interviewer knows these options are available, so any sudden video losses or random moments of silence might come across as suspicious.

2.11 Take it Slow When You Speak During a Video Interview

When you answer questions, focus on taking it slow and speaking clearly. Articulating is vital when you're taking part in a video interview. If you speak too quickly, you may be difficult to understand, especially if your microphone or the interviewer's speakers are not the highest quality.

In case you do not understand the accent of an interviewer, or if their audio is weak, please feel free to ask them to repeat their question.

2.12 Turn Off Notifications

Similar to in-person interviews, please silence your mobile phone during your video interview. Also pause any system, messenger, or other notifications that usually pop up on your screen. If these go off you might get distracted.

2.13 Be Yourself

Focus on being yourself. Remember the information you shared in your application has got you to this stage, so the committee is interested in meeting you. Take a deep breath, smile, and do your best.

2.14 Interview Panel

There are likely to be 2 or 3 interview panelists who will meet with you, all together, during your interview. You should be able to see and hear all of them on separate windows on your computer screen via gallery view. They will take turns to ask you questions. Your interview could last between 20 and 25 minutes.

2.15 Some DO's and DON'Ts for a Successful Virtual Interview

- Do treat this like a formal in-person interview.
- Do set up your video and be prepared well before the scheduled time.
- Do take care to eliminate all distractions during the interview.
- Do maintain eye contact with the camera.
- Do prepare your answers as you would for a traditional interview.
- Don't use a computer that you're not familiar with.

Last but not the least, don't panic if something unexpected happens midway through your interview. If something does go wrong, send our back end team a message as soon as you can, explain what happened, and ask if you can re-schedule. We will do our best to help. If you have any questions, please reach out to the team through our email: RF.Scholarships@reliancefoundation.org.