

INTERVIEW TIPS FOR GRADUATE NURSES

The journey to find a job as a graduate nurse is not always easy or straightforward. While you might have the necessary professional qualifications and transcript, that is not enough to secure you a job. Your job interview in a job interview is the final deciding factor for all recruiters or employers. This is why you must learn how to excel in interviews.

Shyness, feelings of inadequacy, lack of self-confidence and poor communication skills are the most common barriers for nurses hoping to perform well in interviews and secure a job.

Here at Exceptional Study Australia, we will summarise our best interview tips for new nurses including what you need to do when preparing and practicing for interviews. Following these tips will definitely help you to become more confident in communicating and make a good impression at interviews.

1. Be on time

- One of the most basic but also most crucial tips is to arrive on time. It is unacceptable if you are late or even arrive at the exact time your interview is meant to start. You should aim to arrive 10-15 minutes before your interview is scheduled to start.
- Being on time shows you are a mature, professional and serious candidate for the job.
- Arriving 10-15 minutes before the interview time will give you enough time to feel relaxed in the new environment. If you arrive just on time or late, then you will likely be more stressed out and tense when walking into the interview.

2. Do your research beforehand about all the job requirements

- Know exactly what the job requirements include as this will help you understand better what skills, qualities, and qualifications the interviewer will be asking you about. Reading the job requirements thoroughly and what the position involves, will help you prepare possible questions and answers that the interviewer may ask you.
- You should also learn about the company's history, processes, strategies and services to better understand and show the employer and interviewer that you are interested specifically in that company's and are very serious about being offered the job.

3. How to behave in and dress for an interview

- It is very common for graduate nurses to make mistakes in interviews which will negatively affect their chances of getting the job. One key example is not dressing appropriately for the interview by wearing casual clothes.
- Unless there is a specific dress standard that you have been told about, go for something more formal such as a suit, tie and black dress shoes for men or a mid-length skirt, blazer, plain white shirt and flats or low heels for women.
- Your attitude and behaviour during the interview are also very important. Always be calm, answer slowly and answer the question directly and concisely, and be sure to not fidget or play with anything in your hands. Show enthusiasm when answering questions and avoid one-word answers.

4. Communication skills

- Good communication skills are essential for impressing employers and doing well in interviews as a graduate nurse.
- Try not to stutter or stumble when answering questions. It is ok to answer in a slightly slower pace than you usually talk. This will help you stay focused on answering questions directly and reduce your chance of freezing or messing up your words. Also, remember to avoid speaking negatively about yourself as you should always be positive and upbeat when talking about yourself and your qualities.

5. Do not be too pretentious or overconfident

- Although you should be positive and confident in interviews, be sure to not speak of yourself as if you are the greatest, most qualified nurse in the world.
- Focus on showing the interviewer what skills and knowledge you have learned throughout your nursing, the part-time work experience or the placements that you have completed. Just be sure to avoid saying things like, “In my placement, I was always the top nurse because I treated my patients the best and I was also the most knowledgeable nurse in the faculty.” While this may seem true to you, speaking like this will make you appear rude to the interviewer.
- Showing arrogance or overconfidence will make the interviewer think negatively of you. This would lead to the interviewer to think that the nurse applicant would not work well with other nurses and/or be negligent or disrespectful when treating patients.

6. Ask the interview a question or two about themselves

- During the interview process, the employer will almost always ask near the end if you have questions for them. This is the perfect opportunity to differentiate yourself from many other candidates who say they don’t have any questions. By asking the interviewer a question, you are showing your interest in them and their role at the company.
- Asking a straightforward question such as “What do you like most about your role in this company?” or “How long have you been working at this company?”, is sure to impress the interviewer.

These 5 tips above will surely help you feel more confident about how to prepare and practice for nursing job interviews. If you keep working hard at improving your confidence, communication skills, and general understanding of nursing interviews, then you will definitely secure a graduate nursing job eventually.