

Barclays placement experience

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Barclays has the longest placement process, ours was of 3 days. It was a pool campus consisting of students from VJTI, K J Somaiya, SNDT besides SPIT. All rounds were held at Trident, Bandra.

Round 1:

The first round consisted of aptitude test divided into two sections. The first section had situational judgement questions. You are given a large paragraph about some situation in the company, followed by many options, the right one being the one which would be the wisest – money wise or ethics wise. Other factors may also be considered, depending on the situation. The time allotted for this section is sufficient. The second section contained questions on simple critical reasoning. You just have to find out the next figure given a sequence of figures. The questions are quite easy, but you have to be very quick, as the time allotted is quite less and the number of questions is high. For the aptitude test, you can practise from SHL Direct. The type of questions asked are similar there. The students clearing the aptitude test received an email for the second round.

Round 2: The second round also consisted of two activities:

Activity 1: Group case study

We were divided into groups of 5-6 and given a 10 page case study to read for only 10 minutes. Time is of the essence, so you should grasp as much as you can to get an edge over others and speak during the discussion. At the end of 10 minutes, we were supposed to discuss the case study in front of two judges. The case study went like this:

Barclays has recently acquired a company. But this company is using a banking software which is different from Barclays. So in order to handle the old as well as new customers, Barclays has to come up with a strategy, which will satisfy the customers, without making them undergo many changes. For this 4 solutions were provided in the form of flowcharts, consisting of everything from the cost of the scheme, to the protocols to be used over the network and so on. It is better to come up with a hybrid solution i.e. combining the advantages of any two solutions and putting forth a better strategy. After this the group has to present the solution in front of the judges. The judges will observe how much you participate and how much sense you make. This will be followed by a question-answer round, wherein anyone can answer the questions asked by the judges.

Activity 2: Group exercise

We were made to play a game again in the same group, which basically was to see how good we are at team-work. It was a simple game of arranging tiles on a board kept on a table, as per a pattern provided on an iPad. There were certain strict rules to be followed, otherwise the team would get a penalty. It was quite a manageable game and the team to finish first won. Actively participate and always voice your opinions.

Students clearing this round were called up for the last round.

Round 3: Interviews

The HR interview at Barclays is a bit different. It's termed as the Stress Interview. It is like a rapid fire round of 45 minutes, where you are bombarded with many situational questions. Provide as many examples from your life as you can, which are relevant to the question. Be confident but don't bluff, be yourself and you will sail through the interview well. Also don't forget to ask questions to the interviewer at the end.

The technical round focuses on your resume-your projects, languages you have learnt. Java and DB concepts are stressed upon. The Software development life-cycle is also asked. Be thorough with your resume.

After these three rounds, came the final results, six of us from SPIT got shortlisted.

All in all, just be confident and give your best. You will surely make it. All the best.