

Credit Suisse Experience.

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It started with the PPPT I.e the pre pre placement talk wherein we were acquainted with the company's culture and the work environment. We were expected to research the company and ask meaningful questions. Thing is, those who did, got goodies too! :D

The day of the ApT

After about a week, there was a shortlist of students satisfying their criteria. It was 70% and above for COMPS IT and ETRX and 75% and above for EXTC. Although, It was more of top 15 students in my class! A pre-placement talk was held for us. There was a brief interaction with a senior and the management. We realized that Credit Suisse does not entertain excuses related to relocating. APPLY ONLY IF YOU ARE READY TO RELOCATE IF THEY ASK YOU TO DO SO. The locations are Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore. Better to research the company you are applying for. It will count.

This was followed by a one and a half hour written aptitude test. There were three sections and one optional database designing question which was to be attempted only if we had time (I didn't).

The first section involved around 10-12 questions on both quants and logic. There was no negative marking for any section and no verbal. It was fairly good and the questions were moderate. Enough Practice could get you decent attempts here.

The second section was the puzzles section. There were 7/8 puzzles in all and required a good deal of thinking. Ofcourse, if you had seen them before, they would be child's play! We were expected to write our logic and the answer to the puzzle. Go through loads of brainteaser puzzles online and check out the book 'How to ace the brainteaser interviews.'

The third and final section was the coding section. There were 7 questions to be attempted. Either pseudocode or C worked fine though I mostly used C for that. The questions ranged from finding if a string was an anagram of another, distance between two hands of a clock, finding if a number is prime without using a function and the rest on data structures such as reversing a link list etc. I devoted around 40 50 minutes to this section and attempted 5 questions. Make sure that your logic is strong and write your logic in pseudocode even if you cannot form a proper code for it. Give it a shot! But DONT overdo it if you cant think of the logic. You aren't expected to know everything. I gave the test with a calm mind and wrote my logic and code according to what I felt right. It will be pretty easy if you are practicing regularly. I tried to be efficient wherever possible.

A shortlist came the next day. Nearly half the crowd was in for the interviews. One milestone cleared. One more to go! :)

The day of the interview:

Once the shortlist was out, I was more into preparing for the HR interview like answers to basic questions like greatest strengths, weaknesses and qualities and concentrating on the appearance and confidence. I researched more about the company (CS actually told us that we would be asked questions about the company, its clients and stuff. And they stayed true to their word. No kidding!). All interviewers sign off the interview by the question 'Do you have any questions to ask us?'. If you say No, then it won't strike a good impression. Ask about something on their website or their work environment. Be innovative and come up with your own questions. Asking questions posted on the net won't earn you brownie points. That's one more task I had in hand.

The process started on schedule at 9 30. There were three rounds of interviews: The technical round, the management round and the HR round. The names were called out in random though I guess the ranks in the ApT would have mattered. There were 4 or 5 rounds of interviews going on simultaneously. We were told not to discuss the questions after the interview because it was a relative grading process.

The technical round lasted around half an hour. It started with my experience in the FETS committee. This was followed by questions on my third year project. Know your project thoroughly and how it can be extended in future. Then there was an easy puzzle followed by a few questions on time complexity and data structures. I answered confidently even though the interviewers tried to confuse me but I stuck to my answers because I was sure. It matters! If you just can't think of a solution, then say you don't know. If you can, then think aloud so they may help you if you go wrong. Don't go in for a bluff else you will be grilled on that answer till you are proved wrong. Remember guys, you aren't expected to know everything. You should instead show your analytical and thinking skills. Be truthful.

There's one thing Credit Suisse is known for. If they think you ain't the right person, they'll let you know in a while and you won't be kept waiting. Plus, you move on to the next round immediately. That's what happened with me. I came out and walked into the waiting room with a relieved feeling of having not goofed up at any place. :D And then was informed that my next interview was in 5 minutes. It's at times like these that you have no idea whether to feel nervous or happy!

The second round was the management round. It's a tech-cum-hr round with a senior person at CS. Surprisingly, I was asked only hr questions. I was told to be truthful and confident in this round. No need to explain why. I was asked questions like greatest strengths, weaknesses and why Credit Suisse? Non IT background people should be able to justify why they want to switch to IT. Ask meaningful questions yourself. It leaves a good impression. Then, I came out. Walked in the waiting room. And then the same thing happened. Next interview. Now. (This didn't happen with everyone though. They were many who waited pretty much too while others were being interviewed!) The third and final round. The round with the HR. It wasn't a surprise when I was asked the same questions. I was asked to justify a few qualities I was

good at. This means writing 'I am a good problem solver' in your resume when you cant even think of one instance where you solved a problem wont work :P. The interview went good and the HR did ask me what I had researched about the company. Given this chance, I promptly vomited everything I knew about CS. :D With some more interaction, I was told that I was done with the process of interviewing and that the results would be announced in the evening. This was at 2 in the afternoon. The results came at 8. There were five shortlists. I had made it through! :) All the months of hard work finally paid off. I was finally part of the Credit Suisse family! The future at work.