

My Experience with the Placement Procedure

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Like all valuable and most important experiences usually are, this one too was a combination of all the elements of our life. There was joy, anticipation, nervousness, apprehension, and everything you can think of. I am really happy to have been able enough to be selected into the best company visiting my college's campus. First of all, you need to know in your heart that sincerity outdoes everything else. Team it up with hard work, and you will be the one touching down on the finish line before the others. In order to crack the placement process at such upper echelon companies, you need to be in touch with common sense, and a fundamental sense of logical reasoning. And most of all, if you want it, you have to go and get it. You must literally place it above everything else in your life. It is then that the four years of your engineering will have resulted into something beautiful.

The first round, quite naturally, was the aptitude round. We had to answer questions that were designed to test our quantitative and technical abilities. But this was only the first part. The second part involved finding computational solutions to simulated situations. These questions needed to be solved in a programming language we were asked to choose earlier, during the aforementioned first part. I chose to do it in Java as that is one language I am really thorough with. I understand that C/C++ are more important and versatile, but what matters here is your inherent understanding of the concepts involved. At the end of the aptitude + live-coding round, students were shortlisted, and were called on a separate day, for the rest of the process.

The shortlisted students, I was one of which, were called on a separate day, and were interviewed. It was a standard technical interview, after which the candidates were shortlisted again, and given a group activity. We had to build model buildings, using LEGO blocks. Other than the fact that I love building things from other smaller things, the supplied material took me back to my childhood days. We were divided into four groups. Two in each room, and each group consisted of 8-10 candidates. We were given a time limit within which we had to design and construct a building. As a surprise, after half time, they asked the two groups in each room to merge their projects. This probably was to see if the candidates were pro-active team players, and could handle unexpected situations like professionals.

There was another technical interview after the group activity. I was interviewed by two of their officers, who again asked questions similar to those from the first technical round. They asked me about my projects – the technical aspects, scope, etc. Then they moved on Databases and Mysql – queries, types of keys, joins, etc. Then to fundamentals of Operating Systems – threads/processes, scheduling algorithms, memory/storage, etc. Nobody misses out on Data Structures and Files, so – sorting/searching algorithms, their complexities, files, other data structures, etc. It went quite well, since I was quite confident about the way I was solving the problems they gave me. Thinking out loud is key, as that lets them in your problem-solving abilities. That way, they let you know if you are headed in the right direction. My interviewers were quite pleasant, as they liked discussing possible scenarios to the problems they gave me.

Finally, there was an HR round, where the woman interviewed me about my projects. She needed to know if I had the guts to finish whatever it is that I started. So she asked more on the lines on my role in the projects I had undertaken in the previous years. She also asked me about my working experience from before. That too went well. It was pretty much a standard HR interview – projects, hobbies, traits, etc.

There was another round in the end, which was to test the candidate's professional fitness – if they indeed are the right people for the job. I found it to be a blend of technical and HR interviews, more on the lines of HR though. All in all, it was a brilliant experience.

To my juniors, study hard, be sincere, be yourself, be smart (preferably in that order, but you are free to improvise!)

Cheers, and All the Best!