

The BEST Questions to Ask

during interviews, networking events, or career fairs

FOR INTERVIEWS, ASK QUESTIONS THAT:

Show you've done research on the company

- "I saw that you all recently raised another funding round that is your largest yet! Does this new funding alter the company's growth and product goals for the next year or just validate your existing goals?"

Engage and build rapport with your interviewer

- "When you first sign on to Slack in the morning, what are you most excited to work on?"

Allow you to gain insight to be used in future interview rounds

- "Let's say you were to hire me for this position. 30 days into the role, what would I have accomplished that would let you know you'd made the right decision in hiring me?"
- "What do the most successful engineers hired here tend to have in common?"
- "I'm convinced I would exceed expectations in this role, but I want to make sure I have effectively conveyed that to you. Are there any hesitations you have about me as a candidate that you think I could make a stronger case for?"

Take into account the goals of your interviewer

- "What are your top priorities for your team for the next quarter and, if hired in this position, how could I help contribute toward those goals?"
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FOR INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWS, ASK QUESTIONS THAT:

Engage and build rapport with the person you're interviewing

- "When you first sign on to Slack in the morning, what are you most excited to work on?"

Give you insight into the role or the company

- "If I were to apply to this position, do you have any advice on making sure my resume gets seen?"
- "What was your background and experience like that led you to working in your current position?"
- "What is a typical work day like for you?"
- "What kind of training, professional development, or mentorship do you receive in your role?"
- "What do you like/dislike most about your work?"
- "Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give for someone trying to enter the industry and follow the same path as you?"
- "What would be a typical next career move for someone in your position?"
- "What recommendations do you have for me regarding a job search strategy?"
- "Are there any other people you'd recommend me speaking with?"

Showcase your own skills and what you have to offer

- “I’m 2 semesters away from completing my CS degree. As someone who is looking to make an impact in this industry, grow quickly, and eventually follow a path into leadership (much like you have done), do you have any advice to keep in mind as I job search?”
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FOR NETWORKING EVENTS OR INFO SESSIONS, ASK QUESTIONS THAT:

Show you’ve done research on the company

- “I saw that you all recently raised another funding round that is your largest yet! Does this new funding alter the company’s growth and product goals for the next year or just validate your existing goals?”

Engage and build rapport with the person you’re chatting with or event panelists

- “When you first sign on to Slack in the morning, what are you most excited to work on?”

Demonstrate interest in the event topic, company, and/or identify an area of shared interest

- “I was so interested to hear you talk more about how companies can build cultures that facilitate the development of products for social good. Those are the exact kind of companies I would love to work for as a new graduate. Are there any companies you think are doing a really great job at that?”

Showcase your own skills and what you have to offer

- “I’m 2 semesters away from completing my CS degree. As someone who is looking to make an impact in this industry, grow quickly, and eventually follow a path into leadership (much like you have done), do you have any advice to keep in mind as I job search?”
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QUESTIONS TO AVOID

- **Questions that relate to salary or benefits UNLESS you absolutely need the information before you will consider moving forward in the process**
 - *Why? You want to wait to discuss salary and benefits ideally after you’ve gotten an offer*
- **Questions that you could Google answers to or know by reading the job description**
 - *Why? This shows you haven’t done your research*
- **Questions that focus too much on what you will get out of the internship/job/company**
 - *Why? Although many will remind that you are also “evaluating the company” during your interactions with them, you want to be cautious to not make the interviewer feel like you are interviewing them*

- **Are clearly outside of your interviewer's area of expertise or knowledge**
 - *Why? It wastes time that could be spent asking other questions*
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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Best Questions to Ask in an Interview](#)