

## Part G: Some help with your interview

In short, here are some suggestions regarding what you could interview the person assigned to your group about.

This text is written in English because it is also sent to all interviewees (as information), and some of them have another language than Swedish as their mother tongue. This means you should be prepared to do the interview in English. The presentation, though, could still be given in Swedish, the official language used in the course (well, if a group likes, English is also OK).

Note that you – your group – must write your very own plan, with framework preconditions (“ramförutsättningar”) and questions formulated by yourself.

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Who is this person, focusing in on the more academic aspects?

- Personal background?
  - While not the most important for us in our course (your final presentation to the class), it is still interesting to understand a persons general background and life story to be able to set the rest below better into context.
- Educational background?
  - Most, if not all, positions at the department require a solid educational background including degrees from universities but the exact details vary a lot between individuals and scientific disciplines.
- Position at the department?
  - What does such a position in general mean with regards to duties and responsibilities? What tasks are associated with this kind of position? What does the person do at work?
  - Has the person had previous positions, maybe elsewhere? A longer career?
- What groups and organizational units does the person belong to?
  - This need not be just formal parts of the department. Most at the department have a “home” – known as for instance a research group, lab, or subject (“ämne”) – but also work and belong to many other groups such as informal groups formed ad hoc by people that share a common interest although they might have totally different “homes”. Try to get an understanding of what these different groups are and how they are important to the person.
  - Example: A research student could for instance be part of a (very small) group involving just the person and his or her supervisor,

while at the same time belonging to a larger research group, a couple of project groups, and a formal division (“avdelning”).

Of real interest is the person’s relation to research:

- What is the person interested in, curious about?
  - Basically, why is the person in academia? There could be many and complicated reasons, many of which are hard to formulate, so do not push this.
- What is the person hoping (dreaming!) to achieve?
- What is the person currently doing purely research-wise, if possible to separate from goals of projects (see below)?
- What would this research activity be called?
  - Make sure to ask for an explanation – also a title, if available - in fairly simple language that your classmates also can understand.

Many people at the department work with tasks in specifically created research projects, which are formalized ways to organize and administer research and development over a limited period of time. This is very likely the case for your interviewee, and if so:

- What projects is the person involved in?
  - If many, ask the person to pick a small number of representative projects he/she likes best (even just one project is enough).
  - Ask for a title and an explanation your classmates can understand.
- What are the major participating organizations/companies?
- How is the project financed?
  - Money often come from companies and grant agencies like “Vetenskapsrådet” and “Vinnova” (and EU), but there are also internal funds at LTU for projects.
- Why does the project exist? What is the background?
- What is the goal of the project? What will be achieved?
- How is the person involved in the project? What is done in practice? With what tools?
- What previous work, narrowing it down to what the person has previously been involved in, does the project build upon, if anything?
  - One project is often the continuation of another.
- What other people are involved in the project? And what do they do?
  - Examples include fellow researchers, research students, people from industry, administrators, to mention some.
- How is the project in practice run?

You could also ask about what consequences and impacts his/her research/project work has regarding:

- The advancement of technology (“tekniskt framåtskridande”).

- Increased business opportunities (“ökat företagande”).
- Environmental sustainability (“hållbar utveckling”).
- The development of our democracy (“stärkt demokrati”).
- Societal vulnerability (“samhällelig sårbarhet”).
- Personal integrity (“personlig integritet”).
- Equality between the sexes (“jämsliddhet”).

If the person demonstrates something, or maybe shows you their lab (if there is one), you could probably ask also very interesting questions based on that.