

Here's how you can ace your B-school interviews



Interview Tips

You have given your best for the entrances and are hopeful of the results. So, what next? Do you relax now? No, gear up for the next step. The interview.

B-school interviews gauge your interpersonal skills which cannot be assessed by looking at your test scores.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN ACE A B-SCHOOL INTERVIEW:

Be prepared: Prepare for the classic questions 'Why MBA', 'Tell me about yourself', 'Why this school', 'What your strengths and weaknesses'. These questions do not have a right or a wrong answer. They are your answers. Do a deep introspection on why you have chosen this path and that'll give you the answers. While introducing do not reproduce what is already in front of them,

tell them something that will differentiate you from others. Be thorough with what is written on your resume. Brush up on the basics you have learnt in your undergrad. And if you have work experience, make sure you are able to answer questions related to it.

Be honest, be yourself: Do not bluff! Do not give mugged up answers. Interviewers would have enough experience to see right through you. It is okay to say 'I don't know'.

Be confident: Your attitude is assessed right from when you walk in. Walk in with confidence and greet them. A formal sitting posture says a lot about your interest in the interview, sit upright and forward. Maintain a positive body language. Do not lose your confidence when you don't know the answers, or when they cross-question you. Maintain calm and composure throughout the interview.

Drive the interview: An admissions committee member once told me, "We ask questions that you can answer, not the other way around. We try to build a conversation." The interviewers base their questions on your answer. Give them brief and clear answers. So, take a breath, choose the right words, answer carefully and drive the interview towards your strengths.

Most of the interviews end with "Do you have any questions for us". A thorough research of the college should have given you an idea about the opportunities in the college. Ask something relevant to those. Avoid asking how the interview went. Having said all this do not be too rigid during the interviews. Have a friendly conversation with the interviewers.

Know what you have written in your CV: Yes, this is something we generally don't pay much attention to. While we build our CVs we often try to niche it up ourselves to impress the interviewer, but when it comes to the final face-to-face round, we don't even look or say that we wrote in our CV. Be it a B-school interview or campus placement or a new job that you are planning to take up, CV building is a key necessity. You know what you need, so mention only that.

Identify your weakness and build on it: Again, be thorough with your resume.

After reviewing the CV, the interviewer might ask you to point out your weakness. You must be ready to speak on this, rather than giving a half-baked response. If you are focussing one functional area, prepare to explain what you have done so far and why you would like to choose it as your specialization.

Post interview tips: Try to list down important queries that you would like to ask after the interview. Be polite and calm. Don't add up too many questions, try to ask essential information

on programs, internship opportunities, or something that is not available on their website. This might show that you are focussed and interested to getting admitted in the college.

Overall, a B-School interview is something that puts your first impression on the Admission Director/Team. Apart from all the pointers listed above, try to do a mock interview with a friend who is studying in a B-School or has graduated from the institution.

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