

Interview Tips and Overview

So, you have an interview and now you need to prepare for it! Don't worry, this is the fun part! They've seen your resume and they're impressed with your GoCorps experience and now they want to interview you and learn more.

Basic Interview Tips

First Impressions:

- Did you know that it takes someone only 30 seconds to make a judgment about another person?
- You want to make a good impression right away. Be aware of things like dress, overall presentation, handshake, body language and posture.
- Show them confidence, listen attentively, be enthusiastic, be professional in appearance, and follow through after the interview (always send a thank you!)
- Bring a padfolio/pen with a paper for your questions and a copy of your resume along with a reference page.
- Know the logistics like directions, parking, what floor/building, name of interviewer(s).

Be Yourself:

- Don't be so nervous that you can't even be yourself and don't overthink it. Remember, they've already seen your resume, now they just want to know a little more about how you might fit in with the organization and into that role specifically.

Practice:

- You'll want to have a good introduction and response to "tell me a little about yourself" which should probably include part of why you chose to serve globally for 2 years after college. Something like the following would be a good idea to have readily available:

"I studied engineering at Bethel University and after graduating I chose an opportunity to use my degree in a global context. I have recently returned from serving in Turkey for two years where I was able to grow and develop in several ways personally and professionally. That experience gave me so many growth experiences in a cross-cultural setting that I may not have been able to get here and it makes me confident that I can take on the opportunity of working for your company in this role."

- You should practice a few questions that you are sure that you will be asked, for example:
 - Tell me a little bit about yourself
 - What is your greatest strength?
 - What are some of your weaknesses?
 - Why are you the best fit for this job?

- Prepare 3-5 situations you can speak to (leadership, communication, teamwork) and be prepared to share the situation/task, what action you personally completed, and what the end result was.
- When you answer questions, don't just reiterate everything that you wrote on your resume. Your employer already read what you wrote, now they want to know more about you than what they read.

Prepare to ask questions:

- The #1 pet peeve of employers is a lack of organizational research!
- Review the company or organization's website. Find out what's currently in the news for them or things they might be involved in.
- Prepare 3-5 questions about the company/position

What Goers Have to Offer:

- As a Goer, you have learned emotionally intelligent traits in the field like:
 - Self-awareness
 - Self-management
 - Social awareness
 - Social skills
- Possessing these skills is a start, and you want to make sure you show the interviewer your determination, tenacity, perseverance and everything else you learned during your time in the field that makes a great employee!

Significant Experience Questions:

- As a Goer, you likely had many significant experiences that you'll want to highlight from your experience serving with GoCorps. We created these questions to help guide you to think through some of these experiences and questions that might help you with your resume and/or prepare for an interview too!
 1. What was the most rewarding part of the work you did in your placement? How can you apply that to helping you find a future position
 2. What was the most frustrating part of the work you did in your placement? What can you learn from this
 3. What 2-3 accomplishments are you most proud of as it relates to your track/placement?
 4. Think of a funny cross-cultural or language faux pas that you committed. What did you learn from it?
 5. What were the 3 hardest days in your time overseas? What specific things made these days difficult? What did you learn from them?
 6. Think of a time you had to deal with conflict. What was the conflict? How did you resolve it?
 7. What were the ways that you were able to take on leadership roles during your 2 years? Were you in charge of any special events, projects, or other teams? Describe any of these experiences and what you learned from each.