Interview Practice

They are looking for:

1. Your answer
2. How well you can organize your thinking

3.How well you express yourself

**Pre-Interview:**

­-Do your research- look up professors’ research interests (or company’s goals, etc.)

-Practice interviewing; know what your answers to common questions might be

-Get sleep!

-Arrive early

-Bring a copy of your resume (non grad school)

-Dress professionally!

**Tips:**

-Don’t sell yourself short, but don’t brag

-What makes you unique?

-Even if you feel comfortable during the interview, make sure you are still speaking and behaving professionally

-Don’t discuss negative information

**Interview Q’s:**

-Tell me about yourself

-What is your greatest strength?

-What is your greatest weakness?

-Describe your greatest accomplishment

-What are your research interests/ideas?

-Design a study

-What relevant experiences have you had?

-How would you describe yourself?

-Tell me about a time you assumed a leadership role?

-Why are you the best person for the job?

-Describe a difficult situation you faced and how you overcame it?

-What are your long-term career goals?

-Describe a time when you handled a situation creatively?

-Why did you choose to apply to our program?

**You should ask (advisors or bosses):**

-How often do you meet with their students?

-Where do you see your research going in the next ten years?

-Questions about their research (have they looked at …x?)

-Are there many opportunities for collaboration with other faculty?

-Where are recent alumni employed? What do most graduates do after graduation?

-For how long are you guaranteed funding?

-Do most students publish an article/conduct research prior to graduation? If so, how many?

-What types of research projects are current students pursuing?

**You should ask (grad students):**

-Is it possible to live on the stipend?

-How does X University handle summer funding?

-What do you do for fun?

-What is there to do for fun in X City?

-Do you spend much time with the other graduate students?

**Post Interview:**

-Send thank you notes to the graduate students and professor you interviewed with