

Seven top tips for your company interview

Congratulations! Getting to the interview stage of the selection process means that your application impressed your potential sponsor. You are now close to achieving a prestigious UK Electronics Skills Foundation award.

One of the final hurdles is the interview. Being interviewed by a prospective employer can feel daunting; however, there are many sources of advice available to help you, especially from your university careers service. We know that almost 40% of applicants who were interviewed last year went on to receive an award, so we asked some of those successful candidates for their thoughts and distilled their advice into the seven top tips below.



Before you begin, remember that nerves are completely normal. Taking a few slow, deep breaths, practising mindfulness, or doing a short grounding exercise beforehand can help you stay calm and focused. Even pausing for a moment to collect your thoughts before you speak can make a big difference.

Tip 1. Ask questions

Make sure you come prepared with a few questions to ask at the end of your interview. The interview process works both ways, so you need to be sure it is the right opportunity for you and to clarify anything you are unsure of. This also shows the employer that you are keen and engaged, and that you want to find out more about their company and the role on offer.

Tip 2. Do your research

Read through the company website, the role profile, and any literature sent to you. Be aware of any current news or technology stories related to the company; find out about their history, products, and areas of expertise. If possible, research the company's culture and recent projects. Revise any technical topics you might be questioned on or that you have mentioned on your CV.

Tip 3. Be yourself

Employers are not only interested in your technical abilities; they also look for how well you would fit into the team. Smile, show enthusiasm, and interact with your interviewer to build rapport and come across as someone they would like to work with. If your interview is virtual, make sure your environment is quiet and professional, and maintain eye contact by looking into the camera. If there are other candidates, be friendly and approachable; you may need to complete a task with them later.

Tip 4. Think out loud

Interviewers will not expect you to know everything. It is important to explain your thought process when you answer questions, so the interviewers can see your approach to problem-solving and logical thinking. Try not to panic; if you do not know an answer, make a rational attempt and say if you have not studied that topic yet.



“As I was a first year, I had to muddle through some questions that were out of my depth. I was honest that I didn’t know but wasn’t afraid to express my ideas, and I think this really helped.”- Jacob, UKESF Scholar

Tip 5. Practise

Ask a friend, parent, or tutor to do a mock interview with you. Go through common questions to feel more comfortable and get feedback. Get used to elaborating on your answers; do not just say “yes” or “no,” but avoid waffling. If you are asked a competency-based question, use the STAR technique (Situation, Task, Action, Result) to structure your answer clearly.

Tip 6. Show your passion for Electronics

Be enthusiastic and talk about any previous experience relevant to the role, however small. Employers love to hear about any extra-curricular or personal Electronics or coding projects - show and tell! Do not forget to mention any updates or achievements since completing your application form.

Tip 7. Be prepared

Wear smart but comfortable clothing and arrive on time, whether in person or online, with your research done and your questions ready. Whilst preparing, think about your achievements and experiences so that you have examples ready to draw from. Do not leave anything until the last minute but do read through your application shortly before the interview so everything is fresh in your mind.



**“Above all, try to relax and enjoy the interview. It’s as much about the company selling themselves to you as you selling yourself to them.”
- Emma, UKESF Scholar**



“You need to prepare, you need to practise, and then, on the day, you need to perform.”- Tom, UKESF Scholar