

Question List for Ph.D. Interview (of Bio-field)

1. Briefly introduce yourself.
2. Why do you choose to pursue your Ph.D. degree? What is your general plan for it?
3. Why do you choose the program A in our university B, instead of the program Cs in other university Ds?
4. What are some major challenges/ opportunities in the field of the program A? What are your motivations?
5. Briefly introduce some core courses you have taken/ are taking that are related to our program.
6. What is your favorite research topic (in our group)? Do you have any related background?
7. Do you have any materials that can be used to quickly go through your past research one by one?
8. Briefly describe your past research experiences.
9. What is your most important research experience? Please share more details.
10. List one obstacle you encountered in your past research. How do you eventually overcome it?
11. You have more than one past research experiences. What drives you to try these diverse fields/tracks?
12. List one of your strengths or characteristics that makes you unique.
13. List one of your weaknesses or failures. How do you try to improve it?
14. What is your future plan after your Ph.D. study? Do you prefer to stay in academia or industry?
15. Do you have anything else to share that has not been mentioned above?
16. Do you have any questions or concerns (for our lab)?

Annotation

1. Interview is not an exam, but an opportunity to know each other better. It's a conversation – not just you talk and professors listen. Keep others involved, and make others feel interested and comfortable. **YOU WILL WIN!!!**
2. Briefly go through the research topics and publications for your interviewers. Write down any information that is useful for this meeting.
3. Make PPT for your past research experiences, with the following stuffs at least:
 - ① 16:9 style, generally no more than 10 pages and 15 minutes, highlight key elements;
 - ② Have one page that summarizes all your research experiences at the beginning;
 - ③ For each research: background & motivation + main aims & methods/ techniques (better shown as graphic abstract, see first page of *Cell* papers) + main conclusions/ implications (show key figures & data if you have).
4. Remember that extra questions can be asked from all your materials (CV/SOP/PPT) that can be accessed. Please be familiar with all the stuffs in these materials and be prepared to explain anything within them.
5. You can write down keywords/ prompts/ answers to above questions, but you cannot read them during your interview. Make sure it will be a natural talk.

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