

Interview tips

To help you prepare for your interview, we spoke to some of our recent grads about their job interview experiences. We asked them how they made a lasting impression during their interviews. While this isn't an official guide to interviewing, and all interviews will differ – these former-grads provide a glimpse into their process, how they stood out, and what made them the best person for the role.

KNOW YOUR OWN CV

“One of the things often asked is how your soft and hard skills can be applied to the role.”

Goyum Siriwardane, Systems Engineer

Updating your CV is one thing, but true mastery comes when you can contextualise your skills and past experiences on the spot, demonstrating how they will support you in a prospective role. Having an in-depth understanding of your past experience will allow you to distill what is relevant in a role, and what is not. For example, your particular experience might not be directly relevant to the role, but skills you've learnt or developed may show you as a capable and eager learner.

SHOW FLEXIBILITY & TENACITY

“One thing that often gets acknowledged is the ability to rise up to opportunities when presented. Often projects come and go and opportunities rise at short notice, so flexibility and willingness will go a long way.”

Jack Southee, Structural Engineer

Show your eagerness to take on any opportunity that comes your way because enthusiasm is key.

Be willing to rise to challenges, displaying an open-minded approach and a determination to make things work. Showcasing your resilience through examples of overcoming failures not only highlights your tenacity but also your capacity for growth and learning.

TRANSFORM INTERVIEWS INTO CONVERSATIONS

“I had prepared a portfolio, which had work in there that was almost controversial – this allowed the interviewer to ask me questions about it and understand my thinking.”

Pieta McAleer Harding, Architectural Designer

Another crucial aspect is treating the interview as a conversation rather than a rigid question-answer session. Remember, you're interviewing Beca too (as an organisation to work at) so come prepared with questions. On the flipside, don't hesitate to ask for time to formulate answers to challenging questions. We like to understand how you think, so bringing in additional material such as a well-prepared portfolio can act as a conversation starter, demonstrating your thought process and opening avenues for interesting dialogue.

SHOW YOUR PASSION FOR BECA

“I remember at school someone from Beca came and spoke about the Griffins biscuit factory – I thought that was really cool as a kid. Even though it was a little strange, I brought it up in my interview, and believe that connection, albeit unorthodox, was what helped me to stand out.”

Matt Wong Kam, Mechanical Engineer

Understanding Beca comes highly recommended by everyone we spoke to. Doing your research about Beca before the interview will set you apart and ahead of other applicants. So read up, and even consider connecting with potential future leaders on LinkedIn prior to the interviews; it signals initiative and genuine interest in the role. Be clear about your career aspirations, show your interest, and build rapport by asking questions.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ARE KEY

“Beca looks for curiosity, attitude, ability to work in a team, and soft skills. Co-curriculars help show that in an interview.”

Vicky Hu, Planner

Extracurricular activities develop various skills and exhibit your ability to balance academics with other responsibilities. Whether it's a university committee membership or leadership in a club, highlight these during your interview. Academic achievements give you the key, but co-curriculars open the door.

STAND OUT BEYOND ACADEMIC AND BE YOURSELF

Standing out in job interviews goes beyond demonstrating academic achievement. It's about showing your passion, resilience, curiosity and flexibility. It's about blending your academic prowess with co-curricular experiences, showcasing your adaptability and openness to learning. It's about being your best self, showing Beca who that is, and how you envision your future with us.

With these pointers, we believe you can turn any job interview into a steppingstone towards a rewarding career with Beca.