



Consulenzà-1

INTERNSHIP

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION
NIT TRICHY

Table of Contents

3	Bajaj Auto Limited	13	Aditya Birla
5	General Electric	14	AbInbev
6	Caterpillar	15	Publicis Sapient
7	ITC	16	OfBusiness
8	Saint Gobain		
10	Airbus		
11	Reliance Industries Limited		

BAJAJ AUTO LIMITED (GTE)

PREPARATION

If you wish to get an internship in a core company, you must be thorough in the core subjects like strength of materials, fluid mechanics, engineering mechanics and engineering drawing. Spend time everyday in revising the important concepts of these subjects and make notes or get a GATE mechanical handbook. Clearing OT is of utmost importance. Only then do you get a chance to sell yourself to the interviewer. Most core companies follow the core, aptitude and English pattern for OTs. You can utilise online platforms like Hacker Earth to train for OT.

If you have done any projects or if you are a member of a technical club, then spent some time on consolidating your contribution and getting a good overall understanding of the project. You can also get prepare a layout of how you want to answer some standard questions like introduce yourself, strengths and weaknesses, etc. Never stick to a permanent script, let it be dynamic. Watch videos on interview etiquettes. All these preparations should give you the confidence to attend an interview with a calm and confident mind.

PROCESS

Bajaj screening process begins with an OT followed by a core interview and a HR interview. This is one of the toughest core OT which you will face. The core interview happens one on one for about 20 minutes. Firstly, they go through your resume and ask about the project which you have mentioned in it. Never lie in your resume. Then, they move on to questions from core subjects. Mostly the interviewer will ask you for your three favourite subjects and the subject you hate the most. Don't try to give a fancy answer here or name a very difficult subject just to sound cool because you and the interviewer are not on the same level when it comes to knowledge.

The interviewer will be a very experienced person from the industrial world. Stick to the subjects which you have prepared the most. Never dodge away from a question which you don't know. You might think that you had escaped that question cleverly by diverting the topic, but it would be the interviewer's plan to check how you face these situations. Pay attention during the PPT and try to emphasize how your interest aligns with the company's interests during the interview. Last year we didn't have a separate HR interview. Finally, three students were selected from mechanical department.

EXPERIENCE

I had a virtual internship due to the ongoing pandemic. Bajaj is a great company to do an internship. They offer significant projects to the interns which will be implemented in the company. The duration is generally eight weeks but this year it was reduced to six weeks. Each intern will be assigned mentors, managers and HRs to guide you through the internship. The working hours are 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. and weekends are off. You can directly report to your mentor or his subordinate. The project assigned to me was Combustion Data Processing in power-train department. I coordinate with my seniors daily which was helpful in progressing in the right direction and understanding the significance of the project. Intern performance will be assessed during mid-review and final review. The whole experience gives us an insight to how the industry works and what is expected of you to thrive in it.

VIJAYARAGAVAN
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BAJAJ AUTO LIMITED (GTE)

PREPARATION

First of all I contacted seniors who sat for T&P placements and asked what all companies come, the list includes both regular and unexpected companies. Then I chose the companies were parallel with my interest, knowing this fact I boiled down the subjects which I need to be thorough with for OTs and PIs. As I wanted to sit for core companies the subjects which I thought was important are ICE, SOM, TOM, DOM, Production, FM and Thermodynamics. For the above subjects you can choose any standard text book and questions can be practiced from previous year GATE papers or sites like Indiabix and Sanfoundry. Apart from the core subjects I practiced Apti from sites like Indiabix and referred Arun Sharma.

Advice: Make an elucidated resume including only the areas you are strong with, be it working for any project in Clubs, your Summer Internship or any courses you have completed. Remember that you don't have to always make your resume according to the company you wish for, just be honest in your work and profile you never know the company requirements

PROCESS

First you will get the notification in your Intern group that so and so company is going to come, but this notification usually comes one or two days before a company comes, so you have to be prepared beforehand. After getting shortlisted from resume, you will have OTs where there would be 3 sections: Apti, Verbal and Core(in my case). The level of questions in apti and verbal would be mostly same but depending on the company the core varies. (Like an Automobile and Aerospace Companies will have different expectations from the candidate). There is something called Pre Placement Talks, where company's HR person explains about the work culture of their company and depending on the company it can be presented before or after OT. Then getting shortlisted through OT, you will have PIs mostly in the same day. In my PI there was only one interviewer, being an Automobile company he started to look in my resume what all have I done related to automobiles, as my Summer Intern and one online course was related to it.

He started by asking questions what all I know about it, e.g. through knowledge about ICEs, different types, Parts, Modern ICEs and modifications, different questions from Transmission and Suspensions. After that I was asked what my favourite subject is and then he started asking questions related to it. As I mentioned one of my projects related to glider design in 3D club(Aeromodelling Club) he asked a question from FM. After that he continued with usual HR questions and the interview ended.

Advice: The main part of all these stages is the PI, so you need to be very much confident under your own skin to convince or convey something to the interviewer. One thing I learnt is that how much ever you try you can never prepare for a PI or expect the questions that are going to be asked but the max you can do is to drive your interview to the areas which you are strong with and show what all you have cultured in it. For this you need to have some favourite subjects of yours (topic in which you are good) and should be very thorough with the work that you have done in your club and summer internship.

EXPERIENCE

Due to this lockdown the whole internship was carried out in a virtual mode. It was a 6 week internship programme, where my work was related to the Engineering sector of the company and we had 5 working days in a week. Though the working hour was fixed as 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, but the timing was very much flexible. For each of their projects one mentor (senior manager of the company) was allotted to the interns, who was our guide and first contact about the progress of the project. I almost had a meeting in every two days with my mentor where we discussed about the different deliverables and plans for the project. To check the progress of work we had two reviews (mid and final) where I had to present my work to senior executives of the company and various questions and suggestions were put by them. Overall it was a great experience, I get to work both on technical and managerial side as the project was under Operation domain of the company.

SOMNATH SWAIN
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GENERAL ELECTRIC

PREPARATION

Since GE was the first company to take applications for interns (although the process finished a day after Bajaj's), there was practically no time to prepare specially for the technical and aptitude test. Since I am not well aware of the resources for the online test, what I'll stress on here is the preparation one can do for the interview. I would strongly recommend going through all your projects and their reports and being solid with all the concepts involved in them as well as the decisions you took during those projects. The second is to know well about the company, its motto, vision etc.

PROCESS

Online Test: The online test consisted of an aptitude section and a technical section (30 and 40 questions respectively, though not sure about the numbers). The aptitude was fairly easy and a breeze for most people. For the aptitude questions, one needs to keep calm and think logically – might sound trivial, but it is something people panic and miss out on. The technical section seemed to be challenging for most, and it might have been the differentiator. Some of the topics I remember being asked slightly more were Strength of Materials, Fluid Mechanics, Thermal. It's very important here to not cling on to one question for a long time. Even if the answer to a question is not apparent, try some tricks such as dimensional check or eliminating options.

Technical Interview: One thing to note here is that for the Tech interview, the 7 people who were selected for it were called in not in the order of OT score, but in the order of CGPA from highest to lowest. This would obviously have been for some reason and it means that yes, CGPA Matters. Being a 7 pointer, I was the last to be called in for the interview and mine was probably the longest. If your CGPA is low, you might be tested more extensively. The interview started with a discussion about my 2nd year summer intern and I was thoroughly tested on the concepts of the project and the choices I made - for example why I used one method of computing or discretisation over the other for defining a wing section airfoil geometry.

Then, I was asked on topics related to that such as aerodynamics, fluid mechanics, strength of materials. I was also asked questions on software tools using in mechanical design and analysis and simulations. Few questions were asked about some other projects and then they asked me if I had anything to say. I asked them which business of GE they were recruiting for (GE is a conglomerate with several businesses such as Aviation, Healthcare, Wind Energy etc.) and said that I would especially like to work with Aviation.

HR Interview: Surprisingly, the HR interview was very short for me. They were very friendly and only asked me why I wanted to join GE. Another thing they said at the start was that they were very impressed with the Online Test performance, which would mean that OT is not just for clearing, but the scores are also considered in evaluating you.

EXPERIENCE

The People : I worked as a part of the team involved in Combustor Aerodynamics (GE Aviation mainly makes Aircraft Engines and other Gas Turbines). I got a lot of support and encouragement from the team and they were a very close knit group (almost as friendly as a club in college). The manager was very welcoming and my mentor also took time to teach me a lot of things.

The Project: The project involved a good blend of the physics knowledge and logic application through code in topics that I like a lot (aerodynamics and CFD). The tools were developed in Python to be used with ANSYS Fluent. I learnt a lot in the process about the working of aircraft engine combustors, turbulent flows and their modelling and the practicalities involved in a industry R and D scale CFD Simulation. There was no pressure and no strict deadlines. The tool was put into use immediately and I enjoyed the intern so much that I feel wrong to say I 'worked' at GE Aviation, because it did not feel like work at all. I would go to sleep late at night waiting for when I can resume with the project the next day.

KUNAL YADAV
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CATERPILLAR

PREPARATION

I would say while preparing for OTs our focus must be on the aptitude. Because, it's going to be hard to brush up literally all the concepts taught since 3rd semester in core. But the case is different with aptitude, because everyone gets the answer if enough time is spent on a question. The fastest one in aptitude is a clear winner because as a matter fact we can also clear OTs just with very good marks in aptitude. To answer how to prepare for aptitude and from where, I would suggest solve Arun Sharma for quantitative aptitude. You need not solve all the chapters in it. Solving level 1 and level 2 questions of the following chapters would be fine: Averages, Alligations, Time and Work, Time speed distance, permutation and combination, probability. I would also advice to solve the questions with a timer to keep track of how much time you take per question and to get the exam temperament. Need not solve level 3 questions as that would demoralise you. Start solving these at the earliest and don't solve just a day before your OTs. That time you should just be brushing through the formulae.

Now coming to preparation for core, you need to revise concepts right from your 3rd semester. You need not revise all the courses but the following would do: SOM, FM, Manufacturing technology, MOM 1, Thermal. For SOM revise all the concepts and solve basic problems (get the basics strong in it); for Manufacturing preparing from the notes of production students would be even more helpful (especially for the tool nomenclature); for MOM learn about the types of gears and their applications, DOF and named mechanisms; for thermal revise the theory of IC engines (valve time diagram, knocking, etc.) and solve problems from compressors. I believe this would be more than enough for core preparation for the OT.

PROCESS

Caterpillar had an OT, GD and a PI. The OT was relatively hard compared to other OTs I wrote. Following it was a group discussion where the topic of discussion was "Will IC engines be dead?". For the GD, especially for Caterpillar which specializes in engines, good knowledge on the recent developments in engine technology, market scenario and future-readiness of the technology was very helpful. A simple advice to perform well in GDs is to stay updated with current affairs and technological developments and their impact. Also try to associate the points you speak with the company and talk with numbers if you can because that would make your points more authentic and the moderator will be impressed. Watch videos on GD roles and etiquette. Always have a mock GD with your friends or senior before attending a company GD.

Then there was the PI where they questioned me mostly with my projects as I had a lot of projects in my resume. But if you don't have projects to speak about don't worry, then they will question you from your subjects. And be prepared to answer anything asked from your favourite 3 subjects.

EXPERIENCE

My internship with Caterpillar was a remote internship that spanned for 2 months. The internship was very productive, interesting and also demanding. I personally learnt a lot about corporate way of approaching things and working on projects. I used to work almost the whole day everyday except weekends. My project was more like an exhaustive literature review and I had a co-intern working on the same project. So, I didn't have any problems related to accessing information or any other technical hiccups. And I was assigned a mentor who helped me with my project and I had to report every day to him.

PREM KUMAR
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ITC (KITES INTERN)

PREPARATION

For me, major part of my preparation involved talking to the seniors who had interned or had gone through the company process in the previous years. This helped me gain an insight into what the company/process expected from me, and how I should mould myself before the interview to have a fair shot. I guess this is the most crucial step of preparation for any company, as it provides a clear path of preparation and you don't waste your time studying from all over the place. I ensured that I am thorough with everything that I put in my resume. I also prepared 3 subjects from Mechanical Core which I was confident about. For that, I just used my class notes from those courses. I also went through some general HR questions and worked on a general outline of answers I could give to those. I believe that my interview experience from the company before that, helped me identify my weak areas, and focus on them. This is a very crucial step. If you could not get into a company, ensure that you analyse and understand why you missed out. It could go ways in helping you crack the next company. Also, learn about the company and the role a KITE intern plays. Read more here: <https://www.itcportal.com/careers/kites.aspx>

PROCESS

ITC internship process consists of the following rounds:

- a. Online Form: You will be asked to fill your personal details, GPA, projects and internships and a few HR questions like your biggest achievement, your short term, and long term goals, etc. You will also have to upload your resume. Mostly everyone gets through this round.
- b. Psychometric OT: Standard Psychometric Questions. You cannot really practice these questions. This round is not eliminative.
- c. GD: It will be a case study and there will be around 8 - 10 people in a group. This round has the highest number of eliminations. Only one or two people from a group are generally selected for the next round.
You should neither be too dominant nor too silent. Strike a balance between the two, ensure that you stay firm to your point, and try to convince others about it.. Read general guidelines on how to attend a GD.

d. PI1: This will mainly be a technical PI. The questions will be based on your previous projects and internships. It will also include a few basic core questions and there will be a separate panel for each department. For me, all the questions were based on my projects and internship, but it also covered basics of Mech subjects in those questions. It was difficult, but if they are convinced that you are confident of what you worked on, and your base concepts, you can pass to the next round.

e. PI2: It is an HR + technical round. Different people had different types of experiences with this round. For me, it was based on one of my projects. However, these questions weren't fully technical, but it was based on the commercial applications of it. There were also questions on what I expect from the internship, if I am okay with working in a factory environment, how I would deal with superior and reluctant employees, etc.

EXPERIENCE

I was allocated a soap plant at Manpura Division (in Himachal Pradesh). The aim of my project was to identify and maximize the efficiency across Soap Utilities equipment like boilers, chiller, and air compressors and to reduce the plant's net energy consumption by 10%. The duration was 2 months, and it was a virtual internship. I was allocated a mentor, who was the factory manager, and a buddy, who was the Main Utilities' Engineer in the plant. The main challenge was that it was virtual when the project is ideally an on-site one. I had to get parameters like temperatures, flow rates, and pressure variation data of multiple days remotely. However, people at the factory were helpful and they spent enough time for me in between their busy schedules to help me with the project. The thing I loved about the project was that it helped me apply theoretical aspects in a real life industry. Also, the projects given to KITES interns have business value, and it can really make an impact on the factory operation. It was an overwhelming experience to have my suggestions and proposals implemented in the plant at the end of the internship duration, and to know that it makes a difference.

AMRITHA SURESH
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SAINT GOBAIN (MANAGEMENT TRAINEE)

PREPARATION

Preparation included referring the previous semesters' notes and some standard books like Khurmi for machine design, Cengel and Boles for thermodynamics, Heywood for automobile engineering, etc. Online websites like indiabix, cocubes, hitbullseye, amcat etc also helps in preparation for logical and analytical skills apart from core mechanical engineering from OT point of view.

Practicing online question papers on logical and analytical skills for time management and approach to appropriate problem solving method.

PROCESS

Selection process is basically OT, followed by GD and interview. Sometimes resume shortlist is also done after clearing OT or GD. Interview can be single round or two rounds comprising of core interview and HR round.

Experience on various rounds:

- OT – time management is really important. The aim is to score maximum marks in the available time, so finding and answering all the easier questions first will be really helpful and rewarding. Stick to the time limit planned. Since OTs are mostly MCQs shortcuts can be helpful (as the last resort). Logical and silly mistakes are to be avoided at all costs. Negative marking may or may not be there, so risk taking is to be carefully handled.
- GD – highly competitive eliminative round. The presentation skills, flow of the topic, adhering to the time limit, clarity in the points projected, language skills and pronunciation, body language, eye contact are some of the key factors checked. Clear idea on what the topic asks for, proper body language – sit erect with free hand gesture(no folding, etc), proper eye contact with all the members of the GD, accomodating the idea of everyone in the group (negative remarks/ statements on any speaker's point or interrupting a speaker is not acceptable), making sure everyone in the group has equal opportunity to speak are some points which are necessary.

Each and every movement of a speaker is noted by the judges. If a speaker has no valid point on the topic he or she can always take up the role to summarize the points of all the other speakers which is very much necessary for a proper conclusion of a GD. Also the person who starts the GD is responsible for making sure that the GD goes through a proper well structured manner. A calm composed speaker with good quality ideas with proper body language and presentation is always appreciated.

- Interview – The final stage of any selection process. The panel usually has 1-3 interviewers who are well experienced and qualified.

Presentation with body language matters the most. Resumes will be personally checked and questioned upon, so refrain from resume lying. Straightforward answers with the correct terms is always appreciated. If answer for a question is not known or answered wrong, Modestly accept that the fact that you don't know the answer and promise to look and learn more on the topic (every answer will not be correct or known at all times). Preparation for the interviews properly with correspondence to job profile is necessary, as not knowing any answer or irrelevant answers will be an embarrassment for the candidate in the interview. Candidates are encouraged to take the right amount of time and give straightforward proper answers.

In HR interviews, qualities such as logical and rational thinking, language and presentation, attitude towards a goal is checked. Preparation for standard HR questions beforehand is advised.

P.S – Preparation of a proper introduction(interesting self introduction without repetition of points from resume) is necessary for all rounds of GD and Pls.

GOKUL
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SAINT GOBAIN (MANAGEMENT TRAINEE)

PREPARATION

Saint Gobain mostly focuses on Logical Reasoning and Aptitude in its Online Test. I used Arun Sharma for my preparation. Some websites like indiabix can also be helpful. There will be a few questions related to core mechanical engineering. Most of these questions test the basic knowledge of the students.

PROCESS

There were totally three rounds. The first was the online test. Around 15 students were shortlisted for the next round. The second one was group discussion. My personal opinion to crack the GD would be to make strong points about the given topic and also not talk too much during the GD. Maintain good body language throughout the GD and listen to others while they speak. The third and final round was the personal interview. Do your proper research about the company before you enter the interview. Know about the role you are applying for. Pay close attention to the PPT session (this will be held before GD). Highlight your achievements and internship experiences on your resume.

In my case they asked me to introduce myself and asked what my favourite subject was. Two to three questions were asked on that subject. And then they started looking at my resume and wanted to know about the internships I did. You have to answer these questions really well. And finally, there will be some HR related questions. Questions like "Where do you see yourself in five years", "Will you pursue higher studies", etc. You must be well prepared for these questions beforehand.

The duration for the GD was around 15 minutes and that for PI was around 20-25 mins.

NOTE: During the last round, they will hand out application forms where you are expected to give references (2-3). This can be your internship supervisors or professors who know you personally.

KARTHIK
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AIRBUS

PREPARATION

There is this thing amongst the students that you need to have 2 of your strongest subjects well prepared for the interviews. Seniors from other companies would definitely guide you regarding this. I am going to talk specifically about the preparation for Airbus as it is entirely different from the other companies. We knew the projects that we applied for beforehand. Mine was "Thermal Modeling Methodologies". With Thermal Engineering (4th sem) and Heat & Mass Transfer (5th sem) getting over right on time, I was able to brush up all the related topics and was well equipped with the answers for the expected questions. You need to choose a project in a domain that you are comfortable with and be prepared with the courses relating to it. Airbus does not look in depth on what you know specifically about the project, but having a clear picture (what is the project about) will surely be a bonus.

PROCESS

Again, Airbus had a very different selection process when compared to other companies. Sometime in mid November, along with the announcement, we were provided with a list of projects that we had to apply for. Each project contained its scope, requirement etc which helped us understand and choose a project that interested us. Also, we did not have the OT, GD, PI setup

After we selected the projects, we directly had an online interview with the Airbus Team. More than the resumes, what we spoke during the interview was valued more. Since they had provided us with the project details, interview steered in that direction where they tested our knowledge in the related subjects. With COVID around, I think all the companies would have a similar online interview setup. All the best to everybody out there!

EXPERIENCE

Due to COVID, my internship was condensed to a 4 week virtual internship. I worked on the project as I previously mentioned "Thermal Modelling Methodologies for Complex Contact". The objective of the project was to analyze, review and develop thermal models for various kinds of connections pertaining to aircrafts. Further, to develop a code to calculate thermal contact resistance for multiple cases of complex contacts. I had flexible timings throughout the intern and had a supportive mentor to guide me. Apart from my learning through my intern, I also understood the functioning of a corporate and how they accommodate themselves to any demanding situation.

VENKAT SUBRAMANIAN
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RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LIMITED

PREPARATION

I started by preparing for aptitude first. "How to prepare for Quantitative Aptitude for CAT", by Arun Sharma to prepare for Aptitude. Then, I went through the textbooks of subjects previously completed, like PK Nag for Thermodynamics, S. Ramamrutham for Strength of Materials, R.K. Rajput for Manufacturing Technology, V. Ganesan for IC Engines, FM White for Fluid Mechanics, R.S. Khurmi for Machine Design, Y. Cengel for Heat and Mass Transfer, S.S. Rattan for Theory of Machines. I also used a GATE guide material by GKP publishers. For technical interview you need to be strong at 3 core subjects. I chose Strength of Materials, Thermodynamics and Manufacturing Technology. I studied the textbooks for these 3 subjects alone and went through our class notes for the others. Use websites like indiabix.com, Naukri.com, etc to train for aptitude tests, GDs, HR interviews, etc.

PROCESS

I was looking for an internship in the core mechanical engg sector. The first round, i.e., Online Test usually consists of Aptitude and Core sections. Aptitude tests the candidate's quantitative and analytical ability. In core section questions related to Strength of Materials, thermodynamics, IC Engines generally have more weightage. Material Science, Manufacturing technology, Theory of Machines are important subjects as well. Time management was a challenge during most of the online tests. The next round is Group Discussion. Very few core companies conduct Group discussion for intern recruitment. Nevertheless, it's better to be prepared. I attended two group discussions last year while looking for internship. One of them was a situation-based discussion – a case study. A story is made up and a situation is explained to us in the problem statement. We investigate or discuss about the case for 15-20 minutes, trying to arrive to a conclusion. We are judged by the panellists based on our body language, communication skills, listening skills, leadership skills, presentation, knowledge, etc. The other GD I attended was based on a particular topic. The topic was Future of Electric Vehicle industry. Topics like "Will automation replace manual labour soon", "Artificial Intelligence- boon or bane", "Economics of India", etc are frequently discussed GD topics

Though not many companies include this in their process, it is better to be prepared. The next round is technical interview. For this round, we are asked questions from our resume, after introduction. Most companies focus on the internship/research experience in our resume. Some go through the second page and test us about our positions of responsibilities as well. Then questions based on 3-4 subjects that we are very strong at are asked. They won't be direct questions. They are mostly application or problem-based. They want us to explain how we would approach any problem. E.g., I was asked to design a shaft once. I was given various conditions and components attached to the shaft, etc and asked how to approach, what formulae to use, etc. They test our concept clarity. Some companies ask few HR questions in the tech PI itself, while some shortlist people from tech PI for a separate HR PI. It's advisable to prepare for HR questions from websites like Indiabix, Shiksha, Naukri, etc just like GD. HR PI will be the final round of the process.

EXPERIENCE

I interned at Reliance Industries limited – Petrochemicals, Vadodara Manufacturing Division. It was a virtual 1-month intern. So, there wasn't any need for food, accommodation, etc. But the promised stipend was provided. There wasn't any particular work time. Generally, at RIL work time is 9: 30 AM to 5:30 AM. Food, accommodation and travel expenses are reimbursed. I worked on a project "Study of scaffolding design and productivity", under the mentorship of the plant central planning head. The best part of this internship and about the company on the whole is that they allow interns to take their time to adapt to their environment and provide ample space to learn, ideate and present our learnings and suggestions. Frequent presentations were conducted to keep us on check. Each intern was allotted a buddy and a mentor to guide them. It was evident that each person at RIL is working towards making every process in the plant efficient. I learnt a lot technically as well as functionally. It was a very wholesome experience altogether.

ADITYA A
7010641802

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LIMITED

PREPARATION

Company- Reliance Industries Limited.

Questions were weighted more on Aptitude, referred to Arun Sharma, RS Agarwal, GeeksforGeeks and common aptitude forums. For core, used RS Khurmi question bank, GATE question banks by GKP and MadeEasy. And random websites like Indiabix and ExamVeda. Focus on the CPC assignments given, they help well. Keep going through the core textbooks repeatedly. Don't stress out on one book for long, go in cycles of every subject book in parts. Briefly touch upon the fundamentals as much as possible, here in-depth questions weren't asked. Try to go one step further into learning little more details associated with those fundamentals, will surely help somewhere. Whatever projects you've done, learn all the aspects of the same, should be slightly easier to cover because there's hands-on experience on the same.

PROCESS

Resume and CGPA shortlisting (>6.5).

Online Test. 2 sections on aptitude and core. Wasn't very tight on timings, just about manageable. 3 people cleared this round in Mech, 21 overall in 5 departments.

No GD conducted.

Interview was combination of Technical and HR, primarily focussed on Tech. Took about 40 minutes for non-circuital candidates. 15 people selected in the end.

Panel was friendly, gave hints at times, and accepted "not knowing" as an answer. Interviewer took 5 minutes to scan resume and ask questions in parallel. Completely ignored IIMB/a robotics project in campus and went to a thermal engineering project. Asked if I'm comfortable with the same and accordingly asked maximum questions in the same. Few general questions also asked like Micrometers.

Advice to stay strong in the project. Clearly describe what was understood and steer the questions that way. HR questions will be spontaneous, and answers shouldn't be pretentious or generic. Any other projects won't matter much. If there aren't many core-specific projects, convince with core interests or learnings from the PPT. General attitude applies, decorum, communication etc. Be frank and clear, never try to adjust, they expect you to be honest, up to you to balance that honesty in ways favourable to both sides.

EXPERIENCE

Virtual internship compressed to one month. Worked as a team with the mentor. Regular meetings and weekly meets with central team and site team with leadership sessions in between. Virtual, so time was in our hands, deliverables were focussed on more. Care to maintain all quality standards expected regarding confidentiality and security.

Other pointers:

If you're thinking about software/analytics, make sure to have good quality projects. Minor or previous learnings won't matter. They have no obligation to consider non-circuital unless being good, or at least know to present themselves as good. Think as much as possible about the question "I have so many other circuital candidates, why you?". Answer to this is painfully extensive. Resume details matter, even the smallest lie will blow up badly. You can easily reply that you don't know something if it's outside the resume, that won't affect you. But everything from your resume should be at your fingertips. For GDs, get to be the leader as much as possible. Or the timer, learn how to be effective in these roles. For OTs, learn to strategize on your strengths. Strengths such that they give highest accuracy in the shortest time.

KUMRAGURUPARAN
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ADITYA BIRLA

PREPARATION

Online tests typically have aptitude and Core, each part having almost the same number of questions. I prepared for aptitude with Arun Sharma and Core with GK Publication, which can be used for all the OTs. Aptitude plays a significant part in the selection process, which will generally not be difficult, but our speed and accuracy play a crucial role. Practicing levels 1 and 2 from Arun Sharma should be more than enough. As far as topics under Core are concerned, I was prepared with SOM, EM, Material Science, Thermal. Concerning questions from Core, there will not be much of numerical types. All the questions will be direct theoretical questions. Core generally tends to be difficult for all those who appear for OTs, not just for Aditya Birla but for any company that opens for the internship. But with the right preparations, you can score good in them as well. The most important thing about attending an OT is your confidence and state of mind. Last-minute preparations are going to make you tensed. Stop your preparations at least half an hour before the exam after all there can never be 100% preparation. Be calm and concentrated throughout the exam, and all of us can ace any online tests.

PROCESS

The process of selection for Aditya Birla was the same as most of the company. It had 3 stages Online Test, Group Discussion, and Interview.

Online Test: Aditya Birla was one of the few core companies that had psychometric analysis as a part of OT. I would suggest answering them as quickly as you can. This always helps with all psychometric analysis. Then came the aptitude, which was not very difficult, the core part as always was the toughest compared to others.

Group Discussion: My group discussion had 9 people, and they selected 3 from them. Company resort to group discussion as a mean for scrupulous filtration. We were given a case study and were asked to come out with a feasible solution for the problem in the case. It was no way related to technical knowledge, only our spontaneity of thought mattered here. One thing I would recommend is to take your time to come up with the right points. There will not be any brownie points for starting the discussion. And always keep in mind to accommodate others in the discussion and limit your one point to not more than 3 minutes. If you keep talking without letting others have their chance, it will not look good on you. Other than this, our posture and the way we present ourselves mattered, you can learn about all this through youtube videos.

Interview: To start my interview, there were questions like "Introduce Yourself", "Why did you choose Mechanical Engineering", "Do you regret having taken this branch". Introducing our self is a generic question that all interviews will have, be prepared for that beforehand itself. Then they moved on to my resume and was asked to explain my projects. I was always lively while answering any question they asked, and I would recommend the same to others. The major part of my interview revolved around explaining my projects and responding to the questions based on that. Then I was asked a few core questions like "Draw Mohr's Circle" "What is the purpose of a gearbox".

The interview is all about impressing the panel within the stipulated 20-30 minutes, so apart from your answers, the way you answer will also have its role. Have a smile right from when you enter the virtual room and be confident in the way you answer; everything else will fall in its place.

ABJITH RAM

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AB INBEV

PREPARATION

I interned at AB InBev, Bangalore. I researched for some time and spoke to seniors and got to know about Data Analytics. I didn't stress much on preparation due to lack of time and wanted to get exposed to Data Analytics as much as possible through this company. I later found that Apti was the only factor which differentiated me from the other candidates.

All the companies consider Apti to be one important criteria in their process. Since Apti is something everyone can ace, I believe the students must improve the speed and accuracy to crack the OTs. Apti can boost the candidates score in core companies too.

PROCESS

The PPT came first which gave the students an understanding of what they might be doing and the work culture, which places the students in a better position to choose whether or not to sit for the company. The moment we entered the Barn Hall for the PPT, we heard DJ playing and we were handed out notepads from the company side. The whole atmosphere was like there was a party going on.

The OTs had three parts:

1. Aptitude
2. Coding snippets
3. Coding questions

I did the Apti section decently and moved on to coding sections. The coding sections proved to be really tough and I couldn't answer even one question from those two sections. I felt I had no chance to clear it and get shortlisted. To my astonishment I was shortlisted and was called for further process the next day. The GD was the most chill I can think of. Right from the moment you enter the room, you are made comfortable and the panel tries to bring out the best in you. The GD was around few questions the panel threw at us and how we tackled it. There were questions where we had to find a solution to the existing problems in the company. Throughout the entire process, there was one person from the panel who was constantly judging each candidate based on their body language and soft skills. The GD lasted for around 10 to 15 minutes.

Within 15 minutes of the completion of GD we were asked to appear for the interviews. Within minutes I felt completely calm as they had created such an atmosphere. There were no questions related to Data Analytics, only HR. The panel consisted of two people, one who asked questions and the other who silently judged my personality. The questions ranged from why aren't you in a relationship (something which we never expect in an interview) to what is your dream job and what is one thing you are really passionate about!

It is really important for the students to work on their soft skills and communication aspects. With the placements moving online due to COVID this year, the communication skills play an even bigger role than ever before with body language taken out of the equation.

One thing which was clearly visible was the fact that the company people send very experienced officials for the campus placements and these people are good at finding out when someone is faking. I feel none of the candidates must fake things either on the resume or during the interview process.

EXPERIENCE

I can honestly say that this was far better than all the interns I did previously. The day would start around 12 noon and the work will go on till 9 pm. The company allocates a buddy who is your go to person for everything. The buddies help you learn everything with a lot of patience. The fact that we have no prior knowledge of Data Analytics doesn't have any effect on the projects. The projects are real time projects which have huge impact in the company's future. In the 4 internships of mine, this was the first time I was doing a project with so much potential for the company. This shows the belief the company has on the people and the interns. Every week ended with a FRIDAY FUN NIGHT with the entire team gathering over a zoom call to play some game. The internship was continuously reviewed with weekly reviews, 360 reviews, a mid review and finally a final review. The company brings out the best out of everyone and does that in a fun way.

ADITHYA S
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PUBLICIS SAPIENT

PREPARATION

Cracking the coding interview book and LeetCode website. Made a website as a side project and put it on my resume. I didn't know any CS theory. When I wrote an online test and didn't know the answers, I used to note down the question and then learn about it later.

Domain I specialized:

Web development. (This was not for internships, it was just something I was already doing before)

Advice or insights for the current batch:

My batch CPC syllabus and materials gives an idea on what to learn.

PROCESS

OT experience:

I wrote 3 OTs. The first two had a mix of Math MCQs, coding, software MCQs (I think there was English too).

I was comfortable in Python, but Citi only allowed to use C, C++ or Java. The last OT had 2 coding questions. (My PC had internet issues and I had to do it again from another PC)

Technical Interview

The interviewer was friendly. There weren't difficult algorithm questions. Asked questions on OOP, SQL (Foreign key), OS (deadlock, how to prevent it), how does the web work and design patterns.

Asked coding questions like how do you handle errors (try..catch), what are some errors that I've encountered. Asked question on my project. Asked what Node.js is, then asked what I/O bound is. Difference between website and native app.

HR: It was through Skype. Asked questions like how did I resolve conflicts with team-mates, do I interact with people from other states, where do I see myself in 5 years, why am I interested in software when I'm in mechanical department. Also asked about my siblings and hobbies.

Advice or insights for the current batch: I didn't prepare for the simple questions like tell me about yourself, and other common HR questions thinking it is too easy and I will just know it. I was wrong.

EXPERIENCE

Duration: 4 weeks

Actual work: They had a website, and I was part of a team tasked to add features.

They gave access to Udemy for getting the required skills.

There were opportunities to talk with company leaders.

Accommodation: WFH (previously it was something like they'll give a guest house for a few days till we find our own accommodation (but before they could confirm, the pandemic struck))

RAGLAND ASIR
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OFBUSINESS

PREPARATION

OfBusiness was a management intern so I didn't do much preparation as there isn't much to prepare. Only things we went through beforehand were the company's website and the reviews it'd got.

PROCESS

Ours was an extremely hectic process from morning to late evening. The stages included two group discussions and a really long interview. We were expected to be extroverts with good people skills, and ability to quickly solve problems. Our group discussions were the generic gd topics nothing technical. My advice is that try to be yourself in the group discussions there's no need for the uncomfortable professionalism facade which they'd see through and make sure to help out those who are at a loss for points to put forward, and once again be sure to make yourself memorable.

EXPERIENCE

Ours was a work-from-home internship. We were asked to sign our attendances at 9:30 am and logged out once we finished our work assigned for the day around 6:30 pm. We were assigned a mentor for each of us who would be watching over our work and would be expecting daily updates. But the work isn't usually as interesting as whatever you had in mind so I'd ask you to brace yourself to whatever is thrown on you. Each of us got different sets of projects to work with, some got sales, some got research and company development and a few got a mix of both.

EFFIN

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