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Best Practices for Consulting Virtual Interviewing

Consulting firms are utilizing Skype and other virtual interviewing platforms to interview students who are studying abroad. These two-way live video calls will enable you to communicate with your interviewer(s) in real time and simulate a face-to-face interaction.

It's important to plan ahead and present yourself in the best way possible to ensure a successful virtual interview. [Your career adviser can conduct a mock interview with you or answer any questions you may have about the process](#).

Best Practices

Preparation

Practice: Mock virtual interviews with a friend or career adviser can help you gain confidence, improve your interview skills, and get familiar with the technology.

Try presenting a case to a friend or relative: During the case portion of the interview, you will need to walk your interviewer through your thought process and show them your work. Practice these skills on video so that your presentation comes off naturally during the interview. Don't forget to bring pencils and scratch paper with you to your virtual interview!

Location Selection

Make your space interview-appropriate: A quiet room free of distractions with a neutral wall to serve as a backdrop is best. Ideally, this is a space that you have to yourself, but if others will be nearby, let them know in advance so that they can give you privacy for the duration of your interview.

Ensure the room is well-lit: Place a lamp at either side of your desk (at the same height as your webcam or higher). At the very least, make sure you don't have a light shining behind you.

Elevate the placement of your webcam: The best position for your webcam is at your eye-level, pointing slightly down. To achieve this, try setting your laptop on something sturdy.

On-Camera Presence

Present yourself professionally: Dress in business professional attire for a virtual interview, just as you would for an in-person interview. Also, be mindful of your body language. A smile and good posture convey confidence and enthusiasm!

Make eye contact with the camera: Instead of looking directly at your computer screen, focus on the camera to maintain natural eye contact with your interviewer.

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Technology
Test your connection: Confirm that audio and video are clear prior to your interview for both you and the person with whom you're connecting. Make sure that you have a strong Wi-Fi connection (or, even better, connect to a router with a network cable to avoid a disconnection).

Update your profile: When doing a Skype interview, your interviewer will see your Skype username and picture, so it's important that both are professional.

Minimize interruptions: Shut out of other computer programs beforehand so that the video screen is the only window open during the interview. This especially includes applications that make noise, such as social media and Gmail.

Post-Interview
Send a thank you note: Make sure to get your interviewer's contact information, if you don't already have it, and send a note within 48 hours. [Find tips for writing a thank you note on the NCA website](#).

Sources / More Information on Virtual Interviews

USA TODAY College:
http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/personal/2013/08/01/13-tips-for-a-great-skype-interview/2608915/

Big Interview: https://biginterview.com/blog/2014/11/video-interview.html

The Muse: https://www.themuse.com/advice/skype-hype-the-key-to-acing-your-virtual-interview