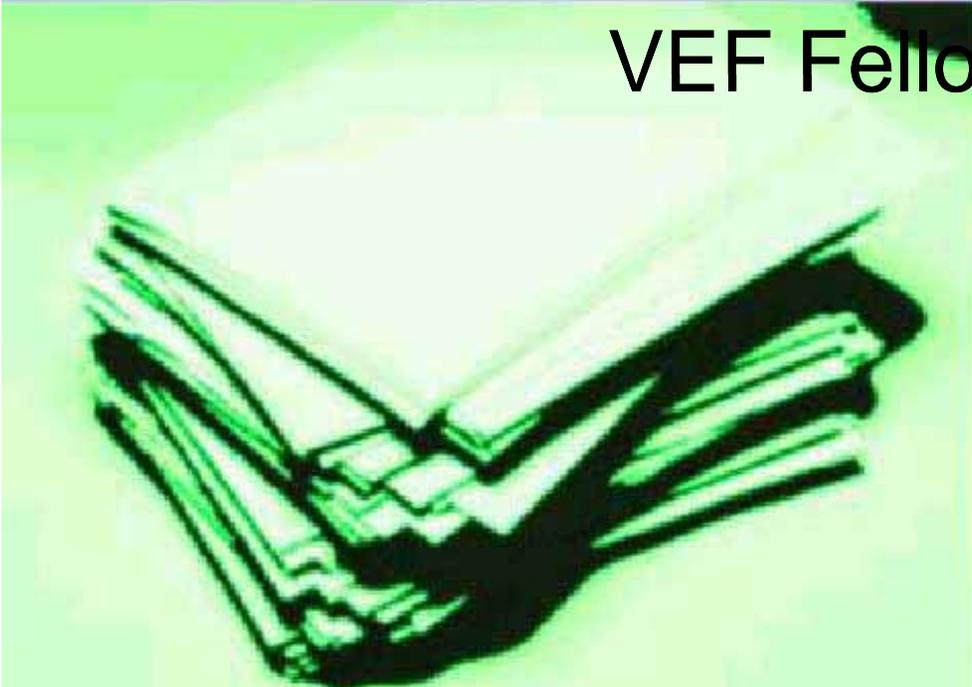




# INTERVIEW EXPERIENCE

VEF Fellows 2009





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# Preparation

## 1. English

- Focus on listening and speaking (both general and academic English)
- Practice as much as possible
- Sources: Speaking clubs, group studying, English class, American movies, native speaker, science news on the internet...



# Preparation

## 2. Background

- Read english text books of fundamental courses and review important concepts, theories, and terminologies.
- Review your previous/current curriculum and prepare to be asked anything in your transcripts (courses, grades, professors...)
- Learn about important conferences, journals, text books, professors in your field (domestic and international)



# Preparation

## 3. Research

- Review knowledge related to your previous/current researches
- Understand well your researches (purpose, method, results, proposals...)
- Read related papers
- Practice presenting your work briefly (with whiteboard)
- Intended research and contribution potentials in Vietnam

# Preparation

## 4. Universities

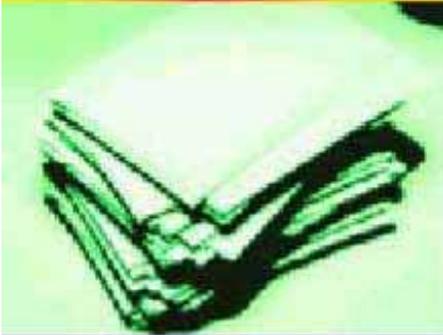
- Schools, programs, labs, facilities..
- Professors:
  - Research interests
  - On-going projects
  - Achievements
  - Publications: read some abstracts
- Sources: School websites, Fellows



# Preparation

## 5. Interview skills

- Familiar with business style
- Practice using formal English
- Practice smiling, looking in the eyes, using body language and using whiteboard
- Carefully review your SOP and CV
- Rehearsing interview questions with friends

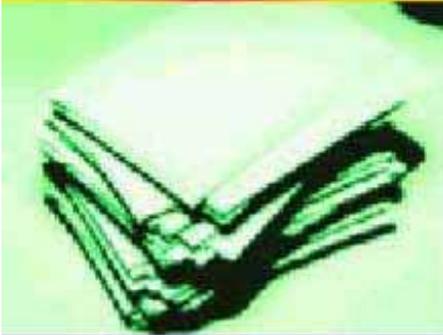




# Interview

## 1. Appearance

- Business attire
- Come to the interview site 45' earlier
- Sit up straight
- Be confident, positive and honest
- Bring your support files orderly



# Interview

## 2. In the interview

- Formal greeting, firm handshake
- Be relaxed
- Listen carefully and formally ask to restate if you don't understand clearly
- Organise your answers then speak clearly and succinctly
- Drive the interview to what you have prepared



# Interview

## 2. In the interview (cont)

- If you cannot find the answers, say something you know related to question and ask for more suggestions.
- Make good sense of suitable humor (optional)
- Don't forget to say thank you and good bye to interview panel



## Interview

### 3. Common questions (Personal)

- Could you please introduce yourself?
- Your work experience?
- What are you currently doing?
- Strong points, weak points?
- Where is your hometown?
- What is your hobbies?
- Do you think you can be a leader in the future, your leader experience in the past?



# Interview

## 3. Common questions (Motivation)

- Why do you find interest in your research area?
- Why do you want to study/do research on A, not B, C...? (A, B, C... are all related to your field)
- Why do you want to pursue a Master program instead of a PhD program? (or vice versa)
- The important of your field of research in Vietnam?



# Interview

## 3. Common questions (Reasons for choosing a certain program?)

- Why do you want to study in the US?
  - Why do you choose that university/ professors?
  - Have you contacted the professor you want to work with?
  - Is there a relation between your project and the courses you have learned at school?
- (If you have a project/plan):
- Why you think your chosen program in US helps to develop that project/plan? How?
  - What do you intend to do in US to make your project/plan work? And after returning to Vietnam?



## Interview

3.Common questions (previous/current researches)

-Tell us about your most interested research/project?

-Technical difficulties you have experienced when doing your projects and your solutions?

-Application potentials of these researches in Vietnam/in the world



## Interview

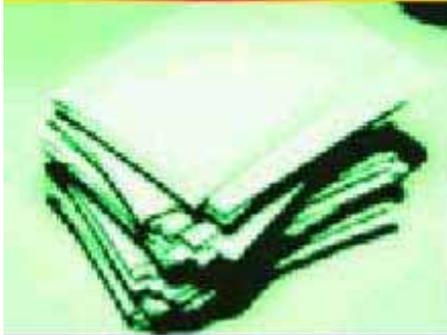
### 3. Common questions: (others)

- Your favourite courses/professors/books, why?
- What do you learn in a certain course?
- Your extra curricular activities?
- How do you study English?
- What do you think about climate change/H1N1...? (hot issues)
- Do you have any questions? (should prepare in advance)



## Note

- Prepare for the interview as soon as possible
- Should have a strict preparation schedule
- Search for more writings about VEF interview experience on the internet. Some writings are detailed and very useful.



**Good luck!**

**Q & A?**

