



# VEF INTERVIEW EXPERIENCE

VEF Fellows 2010  
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# Preparation



## 1. English

### ✚ Listening and speaking

- [voanews.com](http://voanews.com), [talkenglish.com](http://talkenglish.com)
- Group study
- English classes
- English movies, music, news...
- Pronunciation (final sounds, stress)

# Preparation



## 2. Profile

### + Personal

- Read your VEF application → list questions → answer

Ex: hobbies, strong/weak points...

- [jobsearch.about.com/](http://jobsearch.about.com/)
- [www.best-interview-strategies.com/](http://www.best-interview-strategies.com/)

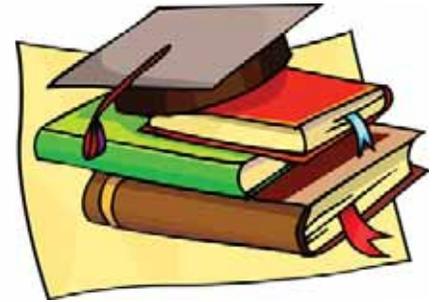
# Preparation

## 2. Profile

### + Academic

#### ➤ Transcripts

- Courses
- Grades
- General and fundamental knowledge in your field



# Preparation

## 2. Profile



### ✚ Academic

#### ➤ Research

- Review

- Purposes

- Methods

- Results

- Related knowledge (books, articles...)

- Practice

- Present your research briefly

- Answer related questions

#### ➤ Universities

- Why do you choose

- Universities

- Field

- Professors

# Preparation

## 3. Interview skills

- + Practice smiling and eye contact
- + Practice using body language and the white board to express your ideas
- + Believe in yourself and be positive



# Interview



## 1. Before the interview

- ✚ Go to bed early
- ✚ Take bath, brush your teeth, comb your hair...
- ✚ Dress in business attire
- ✚ Come to the interview site 45' early
- ✚ Bring your ID card/passport + necessary files

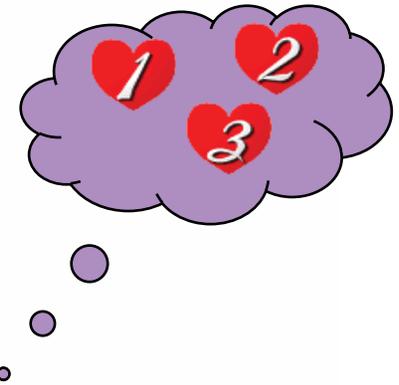
# Interview



## 2. In the interview

- + Formal greeting, firm handshake
- + Smile and use eye contact
- + Be confident
- + Show your passion for your field
- + Be honest

# Interview



## 2. In the interview

- ✦ Organize your answers
- ✦ Drive the interview to what you have prepared
- ✦ Say thank you, goodbye and clean up your mess

# Interview



## 3. How to deal with accidents

Situation	Solution
You do not understand the question	Ask the professors to restate the questions “Could your please repeat the question?” “OK, then you mean...”
You do not know the answer	Say something you know related to the question “I don’t know much about..., but I do know about...”

# Interview



## 3. How to deal with accidents

Situation	Solution
You answer wrong	Say sorry Answer it again
The professors do not understand your answer	Speak slowly Make your answer simpler Use the white board
The professors disagree with your answer	Ask for more information Protect your ideas reasonably Promise to read more about that

# Interview

## 4. Common questions



### + Personal

- Introduce yourself
- Your work experience
- Strong/weak points
- Your hometown
- Your hobbies
- Why do you want to study in the U.S.?
- Why do you need a PhD/master degree?
- What will you do after completing your graduate studies?

# Interview

## 4. Common questions



### + Academic

- Why do you choose your major?
- Give the definitions of some specialized terms (ex: experiment, design...)
- Tell us about your most interested project
- Difficulties you have encountered and your solutions
- Why do you choose that university/professor
- Your favorite courses/books and why?
- Do you have any questions?

# KEY TO SUCCESS



**Be confident**

**Be well-prepared**

Thanks for  
your attention

**Good luck!**





# Q & A