

VEF Interview Experience

VEF Fellows 2008

Content

- **PREPARATION**
- **IN THE INTERVIEW**
- **SOME QUESTIONS**

Preparation

- English (listening, speaking)
- Communication skills
- Background
- Research
- CV and SOP



Preparation

English Listening

- Focusing on both communication English and academic English (terminology)
- Listening as much as possible
- Most of VEF Fellows 2008 have the TOEFL score 80-100 (IBT)
- Listening resources:
 - www.voanews.com
 - www.npr.org
 - <http://www.nih.gov/news/radio/index.htm>

Preparation

English Speaking

Practise as much as possible

- English Club
- English speaking class
- Groups
- Recorder (record, re-listen)

Preparation *Background*

- Fundamental background of your major
- Knowledge related to ALL your previous and current researches



Preparation *Background*

How?

- Reading text books (terminology, outline)
- Reading papers (outline)
- Preparing some related questions

Preparation *Research*

- Previous and current researches
 - Methods (WHY ?)
 - Results
 - Applications
 - Future trends
 - Proposals
 - **Important:** Explain your work to a person of different research area
- **Don't worry if you have no paper**



Preparation *Research*

- Intended research interests
 - General background
 - Some related papers
 - Your motivation?
 - Your intention?

Preparation

CV and SOP

- Review your CV and SOP *carefully*
- Visit websites of intended universities
 - General information
 - Department: Research areas, achievement, faculties...
 - Professors: Their research interests, publications, what they are doing, ...

Preparation

- Prepare some questions for the interviewers
- Simulate the oral test
 - With friends
 - By yourself
 - Recorder
 - Mirror

In the Interview

- Be on time (You should go sooner)
- Nice dress
- Be confident, sometimes hard-headed but not arrogant
- Be enthusiastic and faithful
- Always smile
- Eye-contact



In the Interview

- Drive the interviewers to your most comfortable areas
- Deal with questions
 - Listen carefully
 - Do not answer the questions when you do not understand. Ask them to repeat the questions
 - Restrict **dead time**

In the Interview

- Deal with pressure
 - Persistent
 - Logic and convincing
 - Humorous



In the Interview

- What impress the interviewers?
 - Specific style
 - Your motivation and passion
 - Eloquence
 - Master in knowledge

How you answer is more
important than what you answer

In the Interview

- Some general questions
 - Please introduce yourself
 - Strengths, weaknesses, biggest challenge?
 - Something about your current work? Do you feel interested in it?
 - Short-term, long-term goals?
 - Do you have any questions for us?

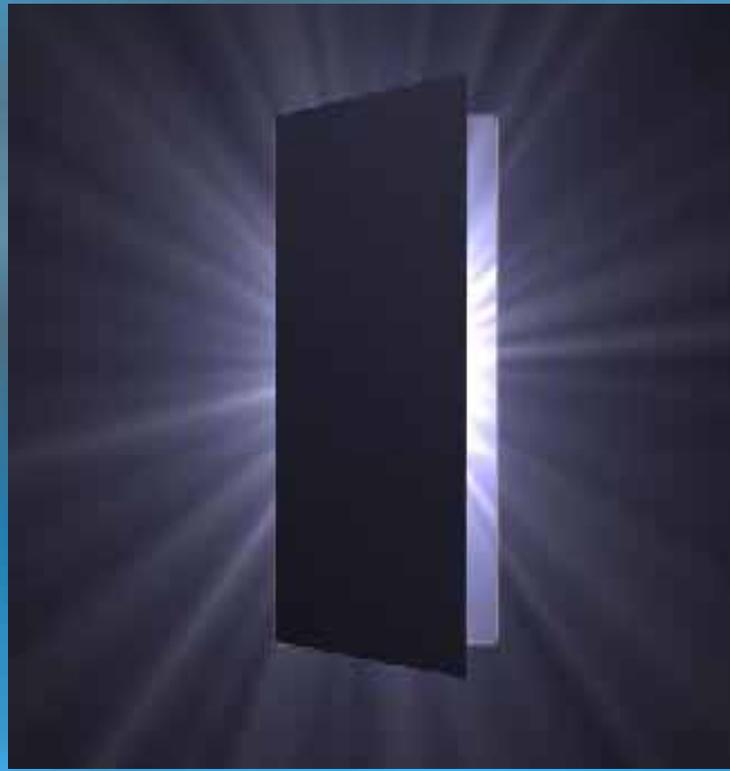
In the Interview

- Some questions related to background
 - Tell me about your undergraduate thesis (present research)?
 - Which subject do you like most during your undergrad study? Why?
 - Which research interests are drawing a lot of attention in Vietnam, at this moment?

In the Interview

- Some questions related to studying in US
 - Why do you want to study in US?
 - Why do you choose this major?
 - Why do you choose these universities?
 - Why do you choose these professors?

- Prepare carefully
- Be confident
- Do not put much stress on you



THANK YOU FOR
YOUR LISTENING

GOOD LUCK & See you in US



Some English clubs

- Master Coffee
 - 314/1B Dien Bien Phu St.
 - Topic discussion on Friday at 7PM
- Sozo Coffee
 - 176 Bui Vien St.
- Youth Culture House English Club