OVERVIEW

The consulting interview process consists of two parts: the personal experience interview and the business case portion. The personal experience interview is made up of a “get to know you” conversation, consisting of questions about your resume, motivations in becoming a consultant, strengths, experiences working in teams, and many other possible scenarios. The case portion of the interview consists of the interviewer presenting a business problem — often one the consultant has actually faced — to consider. During the case portion (often 75% of a 30 minute to 1 hour interview) interviewees are expected to describe how they would approach the problem in a logical, creative, and structured manner. Although problem solving skills and the prowess to present logical arguments and hypotheses are abilities that Ph.D., masters, law degree, and medical degree students have in spades, the ability to think on the spot and coherently address issues relevant to businesses takes practice.

There are a few general suggestions from alumni to consider when preparing for the interview. First, do not neglect preparing for the personal interview section. While performing well on the case is a necessary component of getting a job, it is not the sufficient criteria. Interviewees should come prepared to answer commonly asked interview questions, with stories that demonstrate the interviewee’s key abilities and achievements. Secondly, when interviews season arrives, interviewees will often have up to five interviews in one day, so you should be prepared to spend many hours each week, for the months preceding this time, practicing and building stamina. A benchmark is to practice cases with a partner (NEVER ALONE) 3-5 times per week for two months before interviews. Finally, when applying to firms, remember that consulting jobs are very difficult to land. However, with enough determination, preparation, and networking with companies, along with “spreading your job search net wide” you will be able to enter this exciting industry.

EVENTS

Case in Point – Case Interviewing Workshop with Marc Cosentino
Saturday, September 13 1:00pm, MacMillian Hall, Room 117, Starr Auditorium

CAREERLAB WEBSITE

• Vault Case Interview & Resume Guides
  o http://www.brown.edu/campus-life/support/careerlab/Vault
  o Vault Guide to the Case Interview
  o Vault Case Interview Practice Guide: More Sample Cases
  o Vault Case Interview Practice Guide 2: More Sample Cases
• CareerLAB Business Blog under Career Field Notes
  o Cracking Case Interviews – PowerPoint presentation by Brian Korgaonkar ’06
  o Google Hangout On Air: Consulting – the Basics from Brown Alums:
    https://plus.google.com/u/0/events/ckjt6qebqcdhq749bmdfnqjk18o
Consulting Case Interview Resources

RESOURCES – INFORMATION, INTERVIEW PROCESS AND PREPARATION

• **Management Consulted**
  http://managementconsulted.com/

• **Case in Point by Marc P. Cosentino**
  http://www.amazon.com/Case-Point-Complete-Interview-Preparation/dp/097101568X/ref=la_B004156BXK_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1358871833&sr=1-1

• **CaseInterview.com**
  Caseinterview.com

• **Consulting Magazine**
  http://www.consultingmag.com/

• **Bain & Company**

• **Boston Consulting Group (BCG)**
  http://www.bcg.com/join_bcg/interview_prep/default.aspx

• **McKinsey & Company**
  http://www.mckinsey.com/careers/apply/interview_tips/case_interview_tips

• **CSMG**
  http://www.csmg-global.com/careers/join-our-team/preparing-interview

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Sign up to find a case interview practice group or partner:
http://tinyurl.com/BrownCaseInterviewGroup