

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWS



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What is an Informational Interview?

An 'informational interview' is a 'must have' when it comes to making a successful career change.

Whether you are trying to choose a course, or considering a career change, it is a very valuable research strategy that can provide you with more accurate information than you can obtain from google searches or attending career expos.



For those who are not aware of the term, an 'Informational Interview' is a meeting with someone from a particular company/industry for information gathering purposes. Unlike a more formal job interview, the informational interview is an opportunity for the candidate to ask most the questions in order to gather as much information they can about the role/industry/company of interest to them.

One of the biggest obstacles to a successful career change is the fear of making the wrong decision, and in our opinion, the only way you can reduce this fear is by gaining as much knowledge as you can to reduce this risk.

This is why the ‘informational interview’ is such an important strategy when it comes to choosing the right career for you.

Below is a recommended list of informational interview questions to get you started!

Have fun!

Leah & Clare



Informational Interview Questions

QUESTIONS ABOUT STUDY REQUIREMENTS

- What course did you study to get into this industry and at what institution?
- Would you recommend this course/institution?
- Is it highly regarded in the industry?
- Did you find the course easy or difficult to complete?
- What were the most challenging parts?
- Did you have a practical component/work placement during your course? Where did you complete this?

- As a graduate, was it difficult to get a position?
- To your knowledge, is it easy or difficult for new graduates currently to get a position within the industry?
- What would your advice be to someone studying this course in regard to finding a graduate role?



QUESTIONS ABOUT THE JOB

- Can you tell me how you got to this position?
- Can you describe a typical day in this job?
- Can you tell me about the clients / customers / people you interact with in this role?
- What tasks do you enjoy most?
- What tasks do you enjoy least?
- What is the most satisfying part of your job?
- What is the most challenging part of the job?
- Were there any surprises for when you first started working in this job?
- Can you recommend any short courses or volunteer opportunities that would help me prepare for working in this industry?

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INDUSTRY

- To your knowledge, is it easy or difficult to find work in this field?
- What parts of the country offer the best opportunities in this field?
- What is the typical entry-level salary?
- What are the salary ranges for higher levels in this occupation?
- Is there a salary ceiling?

SKILLS & PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- What are the key skills that you develop working in this field?
- Considering all the people you have met in your line of work, what personal attributes do you see as being essential to success?
- Is there any other advice you would offer someone considering a career in this industry?