

Quick guide to example interview questions

By making yourself familiar with these questions in advance, you can impress the hiring representatives with your skills and competencies. You won't be asked all of the following questions during an interview but it's good to have a prepared answer in the event that one of them is asked.

CV-Based / Traditional Questions

Breaking the ice

- Tell me about yourself.
- Walk me through your resume.
- What do you want me to know about you that isn't on your CV?
- How would your academic advisor or mentor describe you?

Your TU Delft graduate experience

- Why did you choose to attend TU Delft?
- Describe your most rewarding graduate experience?
- Tell me about your research.
- What did your research contribute to the field?

Your motivation

- Why did you apply to our organisation? Why do you want to work here?
- What can you tell us about our organisation?
- What interests or impresses you about our organisation?
- What criteria are you using to evaluate organisations?
- Are you seeking employment at an organisation of a certain size? Why?
- Do you have a geographic preference?
- Do you think you would enjoy living in this area?
- Why should I hire you and not the next candidate who walks in the door?

Your interest

- How did you become interested in this field or organisation?
- Tell me about an interesting article you recently read in the news.
- If you had six months ahead with no obligations and no financial constraints, what would you do?

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Your experience

- Tell me what you learned from your volunteer or work experiences.
- Describe the job or experience that has had the greatest impact on your career goals.
- What specific skills have you acquired or used in previous experiences that relate to this position?

Your strengths and development areas (weaknesses)

- What is your greatest strength?
- What development do you think you would require in this role?
- Which of your qualifications make you think you would be successful here?
- What have you accomplished that you are most proud of?

Your work situations

- In what kind of work environment do you best perform?
- How would you motivate other people?
- How would you persuade others to consent to your ideas?
- What kinds of tasks and responsibilities motivate you the most?

Behavioural Questions

- Tell me about a time when you used your quantitative/analytical skills.
- Describe an experience in which you showed initiative.
- Tell me about your most recent group or team effort.
- Tell me about an important goal you set in the past, and what steps you took to reach that goal.
- Tell me about a time when you have managed multiple priorities at once.
- Describe a situation in which you had to take a risk.
- Tell me about a time when you went the “extra mile” to get a project done.
- Describe an experience in which you showed creativity.
- Describe a situation when you had to persuade or convince someone. How did you do it?
- Describe a time when you had a difficult decision to make and how you arrived at your decision.
- Tell me about a time when you had to work on a project that didn't work out the way it should have. What did you do?
- Give me an example of when you failed at something and what you learned from that experience.

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- Describe a group work situation where you and your partner were having trouble getting along with each other. How did you resolve the conflict?
- Describe a situation when you had to learn a large amount of material quickly. How did you handle it?
- Tell me about a time when you had a personality conflict or disagreement with a supervisor. How did you resolve it?
- Give me an example of how you would motivate a co-worker who was performing poorly on a team project?
- Tell me about an unpopular decision you made. How did you make the decision? If you could handle that same situation again, would you do anything differently?

Questions to ask the interviewer

- What do you consider the three most important day-to-day responsibilities of the job?
- What would I be expected to achieve in my first few months with you?
- How do you see this company developing over the next five years?
- How would you describe the atmosphere in this company?
- Can you please give me more details of your training programme?
- Is there a fixed period of training for new hires/graduates?
- What are the key attributes of your best graduates?
- Do you send your employees on external training courses?
- How easy is it for new graduates to find accommodation in this area?
- What is a typical career path in this job function?
- I see it is possible to switch job functions - how often does this happen?
- How much discretion do you give graduate trainees to make their own decisions?
- What are the possibilities of using my languages?
- What are the travel/mobility requirements of this job?
- What is the next step in the hiring process?