

Getting to know each other at eye level

The job interview often feels like an exam situation. But think of it more like a first date, where both sides can see if they really are a good match for each other.

hello

**TUM
TIP**

Practice makes perfect

In order to be well prepared for your job interview, it is advisable to practice the relevant interview situations repeatedly. At TUM, you have the opportunity to do this, for example, at formats such as speed dating with companies at the TUM Career Day or as part of the TUM Mentoring by Alumni for Students:

www.community.tum.de/career-service

www.community.tum.de/mentoring

Sweaty palms and butterflies in your stomach...

For most people, job interviews are dreadful. Fact is, interviews are test situations – even among high-flyers and even for the interviewers themselves. Ultimately, recruiters also want to find the perfect match. If you're well prepared, you'll be able to focus on the essentials despite being excited and you'll be able to talk to your interviewers on an equal footing.

Before you go to your interview, therefore, think about the following: It's not just your potential employer who'll be checking you out – you'll be doing the same to them. Of course, HR people want to find out whether you are qualified for this position and will fit nicely into the team. But an interview is also a chance to find out whether you even want to work there in the first place. Have a few specific questions ready that will help you discover whether the job is what you need and are looking for: What exactly will you be doing in the position? What would a typical day at work look like? Do the values of the company match

your own? Would you have a good time with your new colleagues, beyond the job? Does the work and travel load fit your life? Does the position offer you everything you need to get a bit closer to your goals? Page 178 has some more tips on the right questions to ask.

Nevertheless, you will still want to make the best impression possible, so preparation is key. Every interview you do will make you better in dealing with this very special situation: It will enable you to respond spontaneously to surprising questions, will get you more relaxed, and boost your self-confidence. As a rule, job interviews follow a similar structure and you'll even find yourself answering the same questions again and again. You'll learn all about this on the next few pages. The better prepared you are, the more enjoyable you'll ultimately find your interview.