A Report on Alumni Guest Lecture on
"Top Tips for Excelling in Campus Placements"
Organized by Department of Computer Science & Engineering
in association with MITS Alumni Welfare Association and IEEE
on 17th September 2024

Report Submitted by: Mrs. V. Geetha, Assistant Professor, Department of CSE
Resource Person: Mr. G. Revanth (Alumnus of CSE 2020-2024 Batch), Working as Software Engineer, TCS, Bangalore.
Participants: II Year B. Tech – Computer Science & Engineering Students – MITS
Mode of Conduct: Offline
Report Received on 26.09.2024

A Guest Lecture on "Top Tips for Excelling in Campus Placements" was organized by the Department of Computer Science & Engineering for II B. Tech students. The inauguration of the Guest Lecture started at 10:00 a.m. in the WB 308. The dignitaries were Dr. M. Sreedevi, HoD—CSE; Mr. G. Revanth, Working as Software Engineer, TCS, Bangalore; Dr. R. Kiran Kumar, Alumni Relationship Officer; and Mrs. V. Geetha, Department Alumni Coordinator.

The lecture was started with opening remarks by, Dr. M. Sreedevi who thanked Management for this great initiation of creating an opportunity to invite the Alumni members of the institute and enabling them to interact with the students and enlightening them with the current developments in the corporate world. Dr. R. Kiran Kumar has shown pleasure and promised to conduct many more lectures in the future for the students' benefit. Mrs. V. Geetha introduced the speaker and invited him to share his valuable experiences with the students. The number of students who participated in the lecture was 60.

Understand the Recruitment Process

- Research the Company: Before the placement day, research the companies visiting your campus. Know about their history, values, key products/services, and recent news.
- Understand the Job Role: Be clear about the job description, required skills, and responsibilities. This helps you prepare relevant examples to showcase your strengths.

Strengthen Your Core Subjects

- Technical Expertise: For technical roles, your understanding of core subjects like Data Structures, Algorithms, DBMS, and OS is critical. Brush up on these topics, especially those related to your field.
- Practical Application: Practice coding, algorithms, and problem-solving daily. Use platforms like LeetCode, Codeforces, or HackerRank for coding practice.
- Relevant Projects: Highlight any projects or internships that are directly related to the job role.

Develop Soft Skills

- Communication: Strong communication skills are crucial in interviews. Practice speaking clearly, confidently, and concisely about your experiences and qualifications.
- Teamwork & Leadership: Highlight instances where you worked in teams or took the initiative. Employers look for collaborative and proactive employees.
- Problem-solving Mindset: Be ready to discuss situations where you solved complex issues or made a significant impact.

Prepare an Impressive Resume

- Concise and Relevant: Keep your resume crisp and targeted. Highlight only the most relevant experiences, skills, and accomplishments.
- Quantifiable Achievements: Use numbers where possible (e.g., "Improved efficiency by 30%" or "Led a team of 5 to complete a project within the deadline").
- Tailored for Roles: Customize your resume for each company or job profile you're applying for.

Mock Interviews and Group Discussions

- Mock Interviews: Practice with mock interviews to get comfortable with typical questions. Ask peers, mentors, or professors for feedback.
- Group Discussions: Many companies conduct GDs to gauge your communication, leadership, and teamwork. Stay calm, contribute constructively, and showcase your analytical thinking.

Sharpen Aptitude and Analytical Skills

- Aptitude Tests: Many companies conduct aptitude tests in the initial stages. Regularly practice problems on reasoning, quantitative ability, and verbal ability. Websites like IndiaBix and PrepInsta are useful.
- Time Management: During tests, managing time effectively is key. Focus on accuracy but ensure you attempt a reasonable number of questions.

Stay Updated with Current Affairs and Industry Trends

- Industry Knowledge: Be aware of recent trends in your industry. For example, for IT roles, having insights into AI, cloud computing, or cyber security could be beneficial.
- Current Affairs: Some interviewers may ask questions on general awareness. Reading the news and business articles daily will keep you informed.

Practice Common Interview Questions

- Self-introduction: Prepare a concise yet impactful introduction. Focus on your strengths, experiences, and why you're a good fit for the role.
- Behavioural Questions: Prepare for questions like "Tell me about a time you faced a challenge" or "Describe a time you worked with a difficult team member." Use the STAR method (Situation, Task, Action, Result) to structure your answers.
- Technical Questions: Be ready to explain your projects, technical knowledge, and problem-solving approach.

Maintain a Professional Attitude

- Confidence: Walk into interviews and group discussions with confidence. Maintain eye contact, offer a firm handshake, and listen attentively to the interviewer.
- Positivity: Even if a question or task feels challenging, stay calm and positive. The way you approach problems matters as much as the solution.
- Body Language: Your posture, gestures, and expressions convey confidence and professionalism. Avoid fidgeting and show interest through attentive body language.

Be Open to Learning and Feedback

- Continuous Improvement: Every interaction during placements is an opportunity to learn. Be open to feedback and use it to improve your performance in the next round.
- Flexibility: Stay open to different job roles or companies. Sometimes, a role that isn't your first choice can lead to great opportunities.

Prepare for Virtual Interviews

- Technology Setup: Ensure that your internet connection, camera, and microphone are functioning well. Test them before the interview.
- Virtual Presence: Dress professionally, even for online interviews. Keep the background neat and avoid distractions.
- Body Language Online: In virtual interviews, body language is still important. Maintain eye contact with the camera, sit straight, and listen carefully.

Resources

- Coding Practice: LeetCode, HackerRank, Codeforces
- Aptitude Test Practice: IndiaBix, PrepInsta
- Mock Interviews: Pramp, InterviewBit
- Industry News: TechCrunch, The Economic Times, LinkedIn.

Conclusion

Success in campus placements comes down to preparation, practice, and a positive mindset. Focus on both technical and soft skills, keep learning, and be confident in your abilities. The right preparation will not only help you excel during placement but also equip you with essential skills for your future career.

The outcome of the programme:

The program outcomes for students attending a guest lecture on " Top Tips for Excelling in Campus Placements " could include enhancing your prospects in campus placements, providing a strong foundation for starting your professional journey, and opening opportunities for personal and professional growth.

- Improved Understanding of Recruitment Processes.
- Stronger Technical and Subject Knowledge.
- Enhanced Soft Skills and Communication.
- A Professional and Targeted Resume.
- Effective Time Management During Tests.
- Improved Interview Performance.
- Ability to Handle Group Discussions Confidently.
- Knowledge of Industry Trends.
- Confidence and Professionalism During Interviews.

The session was completed at 11:00 A.M, and he clarified the queries of enthusiastic young minds with a great zeal during the interaction time.

The resource person was honoured by a token of respectable appreciation by Dr. M. Sreedevi CSE – HoD, Dr. R. Kiran Kumar, Alumni Relation Officer, and all department faculty members.

Vote of Thanks:
Mrs. V. Geetha proposed a vote of thanks to the Resource person, HoD, and Alumni Relations Officer for attending the function. She extended her thanks to the Principal and the Management for their support in conducting the training.