

Name and Company:

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EXL Analytics

Q: Are you satisfied with the company you are placed in or did you harbor expectations for a better company?

A: Considering the fact that my department had slim chances of entertaining recruitment from a core company, I had always aimed to be picked up by an analytics firm. Thus, I would term my placement satisfactory.

Q: What are some of the challenges that a student faces during the beginning of the placement season? Can any changes be brought about in the scenario?

A: The main challenge, as has been pointed out by some companies that came for recruitment this semester, faced by the students lies in the communication skills they possess. Students are not even sure of the answers to be dished out to the usual questions put forth by the HR professionals. This leads to them giving garbled, hesitant answers in the interviews, thus naturally reducing their chances of getting picked by that company. Training in inter-personal skills and mock interviews/GDs organized by the T&P would help the students be better prepared to actually exploit their own strengths during the Pls.

A variety of companies come to the campus during the placement season, viz., core, IT, software, analytics, finance, etc. to name a few. Preparations for each kind of company varies greatly. Thus, either prior to or at the beginning of the placement season, career counselling sessions would help a student decide on his actual calling in the professional world, and choose companies that fit his personality and skill set and prepare accordingly.

Q: Were you rejected by any other company? If yes, what could be the possible reasons for your rejection?

A: I was rejected by MuSigma prior to this. The entire process was quite tedious, lasting nearly a continuous 14 hours. I had managed to clear all the rounds but was rejected in the PI round, probably because I failed to make the most of the opportunity owing to the exhaustive process that preceded it.

Q: How many levels were there in the selection procedure of EXL Analytics?

A: There were basically 2 rounds: the online test and the personal interview round. The online test was held here at NIT, Rourkela while the personal interviews were held at NIT, Jamshedpur. The personal interview was subdivided into a minimum of two separate interviews conducted by different panels.

Q: What preparations did you make to get through the written rounds?

A: The online test consisted of Quantitative Aptitude, Verbal Ability and Logical Reasoning questions. Almost all the companies coming for the placement season have this pattern in their tests, so I was in regular touch with such questions.

Q: What preparations did you make to get through the GD rounds?

A: There were no GD rounds. All the rounds succeeding the online test were Personal Interview rounds. I had two interviews after being shortlisted from the online test.

Q: What preparations did you make to get through the Interview rounds?

A: The interview rounds consisted of HR questions and mathematical puzzles, guesstimates, aptitude questions and general mathematics

questions too. Such questions can be easily found on the internet and I had practiced some from each kind before the interviews.

Q: Any tips or suggestions for the juniors?

A: Aptitude and verbal ability practice is a must to clear the written rounds of any company, so be in constant touch with that. Identify your strengths and weaknesses beforehand and build up answers based on that for the HR interview rounds. Mock interview and GD sessions among friends or at the hostel would really give a confidence boost while facing the actual processes.

It is not about working hard, it is all about working smartly.

The most important advice: Be patient. Never give up on yourself if you are rejected by a company, in any of the rounds. Your day will come, even if it is somewhat later than you would like it to be.

Q: Can you briefly explain your overall experience of the placement season?

A: I shall not be sitting for any other company, thus the placement season lasted for a month and half for me. Getting placed was more of a relief than exuberant happiness. It was a turbulent time, a roller coaster ride of hopes and expectations. The rejection by MuSigma was disheartening because I had initially aimed for bagging a job there. But then, as the HR in my EXL interview rightly pointed out, there is always a silver lining to any situation and better times do come eventually. I would like to acknowledge the immense support and faith of my friends, which went a long way in boosting my self-confidence.