

Justine Raju : Snapdeal/DRDO

Q: Are you satisfied with the company you are placed in or you expected a better company?

A: Definitely. I wanted to get into a core startup company. But my elders wanted me to get into a stable workplace. And I ended up getting both options. No one could be happier. Though not yet fixed, probabilities lie high in me choosing Snapdeal because it offers a higher pay package and more work to do.

Q: Were there any challenges that you faced in the beginning of the placement season?

A: Well, yes. Ours being the first batch of dual degrees from this institute, most companies were hesitant to take the risk of hiring us. But our placement coordinator did a wonderful job of reducing that hindrance. Another troublesome factor was that my pointer was lower than what some companies set as their cutoff.

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

A: I have been rejected by lots of companies even though I managed to clear the written round of every one of them. I faltered under pressure sometimes. Some rejected me for my low grades. And some companies told me I exceeded their requirements. A combination of various types of bad luck.

Q: How many levels were there in the selections procedure of this company?

A: DRDO had two rounds. The first was a written round that basically followed the GATE pattern. The second was an online interview with a panel

in Delhi. The interview was mostly about the subjects that I learnt throughout these five years. A lot of stress was given to my project as well.

As for Snapdeal, there were 4 rounds. One was an online round involving MCQ as well as programming questions. MCQs dealt with aptitude and algorithms.

Then followed two technical interviews and a HR interview. Technical interviews solely focused on algorithms and data structures. The HR interview was just a formality.

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

A: Thankfully, MCQs and programming comes naturally to me. I didn't have to prepare myself separately for that. For MCQ, I suggest one learns the art of eliminating options and choosing the most probable one. Even if you do not have any idea about what the question is, the options always contains clues about the direction in which to think. Practice aptitude without pen, paper and calculator. Do not leave a single question unanswered even if there is negative marking.

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

A: The companies in which I was selected didn't have any GD rounds. But I did go through a GD for a different company in which I was rejected at this stage. My preparation included mock GDs with my classmates. However nothing prepares you enough to deal with the manner-less yelling that takes place in the GDs of companies.

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

A: I went through geeksforgeeks.org and was highly dependent on coursera.org for strengthening my algorithms knowledge. Most companies

ask questions from a limited database which have been shared by people who have attended the company's interviews earlier.

Q: Any tips or suggestions for the juniors?

A: Play your cards right. You need to understand the exact requirement of the company you are sitting for and show/hide your talents as per required. Keep your pointer above 7.5 at all costs. Do not consider any company beneath yourself (Yes, even TCS or IBM) because getting placed there gives you a relief that you can at the very least survive without being dependent on your parents anymore. However always strive for better companies. Most importantly, realize that placement is extremely based on luck. Hence do not get frustrated if your luck runs out.

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

A: I had a very irritating start being rejected by many companies. Thankfully, I got placed in Sony which held me up for a bit. And just when I had resigned myself to accepting my fate, my luck had a sharp spike and well, as people say "Upar waala jab bhi deta, deta chappar faad ke!". My friends, family and my project guide were a huge support to me during this time, rejoicing with me on my success and laughing/cursing alongside me whenever luck took a bad turn.