



Academic Career Mentoring: Interviews

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http://viterbi.usc.edu/students/phd/academic_resources/



Mission and Goals

- An ongoing series of mentoring panels taking place each semester
- Providing information and training to PhD students and post docs aiming for academic careers
- Providing role models to emulate and best practices to undertake
- Welcome to the third mentoring panel in the series, focused on the academic job interview





Today's Panel Questions

- What are the most important elements of interview preparation?
- How should you practice for your interview?
- What research about the institution should you do before the interview and how, including whom you should contact and what questions you should ask?
- What should you definitely do and definitely not do during your interview?
- What should you do post-interview and when/how, including whom you should contact at the interviewing institution and what should be conveyed to them?





Today's Panelists

- Prof. Andrea Armani, Mork Family Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, assistant professor
- Prof. Hossein Hashemi, Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical Engineering – Electrophysics, associate professor
- Prof. Allan Willner, Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical Engineering – Systems, professor
- Prof. Alexander Sawchuck, Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical Engineering – Systems, professor and department chair





Panel Format

- Introduction (now)
- Panelists' remarks:
 - A bit of history and context
 - Answers to questions
 - Related advice
- Mock interview session with unusual/unexpected questions
- Open Q&A for the audience
- Wrap-up





Interviewing Advice from the Panel Moderator

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- Be prepared!!
 - Learn about the institution
 - Look up all the people you will be meeting with
 - Know two facts about each and use them during the meeting as relevant
 - Have relevant questions ready for each person you meet with
 - Do not ask everyone the same question
 - Divide your time between talking and listening, but be ready to fill empty time
 - Know why you hope to be at the particular institution and convey that to the people you meet with

