



THE PLACEMENT CELL, MIRANDA HOUSE

PROFECTUS

Latest Insights into Career Trends and Path to your Dream Job

#EmpoweringWomen

A series of scintillating interviews with the most distinguished women.

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INTERVIEW WITH Ms. NIDHI CHAUDHARY



Nidhi Chaudhary holds a Master's degree in Analysis and Policy in Economics (APE) from the Paris School of Economics and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Miranda House, University of Delhi.

She is currently working as a Statistician & Economist at The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of The United Nations for 2 years. Prior to joining the FAO, she worked as a research assistant at The Paris School of Economics and Sciences Po.

1. What is the best decision you have ever made, professionally?

The best decision that I have made professionally is to work with FAO. I think it aligns well with my sentiment of working towards creating a better place for the people. Even today, a major proportion of the population remains employed in agriculture, and by developing evidence-based policies to help them achieve their targets in terms of agricultural production, I feel that I am able to contribute to a better and sustainable future for a large section of the underprivileged population.

2. What is a skill that you developed while working with the FAO?

Time management and teamwork.

We work on multiple projects simultaneously and are bound by time to give conclusive results. Each member of the project might have a different perspective on the same problem, and we have learned to engage in fruitful discussions to agree on a single approach unanimously. Furthermore, I have to make many presentations and network with people in different teams or with the National Statistical Offices of certain countries, this has helped me polish my communication skills.

3. Back in your graduation days, did you have a plan in mind, and are you on your desired path?

Back in my graduation days, I wanted to become a pilot in the Indian Airforce, and now I am working with FAO as a Statistician and Economist. If you ask the 20-year-old me, she'd say no. But if you ask me now, I think I have been on my desired path all along. I have never taken an opportunity for granted, even if I didn't enjoy it very much. I have always worked hard, and it helped in carving out the right path for me.

4. What changes have you noticed in your organization as a result of COVID-19? What are the major takeaways from your experience?

The virtual office had an initial negative impact on our productivity. It is easier to connect with people working in different fields and exchange ideas when we meet them in person. But humans adapt to change, so within six months, we were all back on track with the same level of efficiency. We found solutions to keep ourselves motivated and keep the flow of ideas going. I believe that changes happen, and we need to adapt, but the process feels smoother if you not only motivate yourself but also those around you.



5. What do you do to ensure you remain productive and at the top of your game?

I believe time management is key. The first thing I do when I wake up is to quickly make a realistic To-Do list for myself for that day and adhere to it religiously. In school or as an undergraduate, we have the liberty to set aside a specific time each day to complete a task. Once we are in the job market or pursue further studies, it becomes impossible to stick to a timetable. To remain productive, if I find myself with let's say 45 minutes, I would quickly refer to my To-do list and pick a task that I can complete in 45 minutes and finish it off. It requires me to be spontaneous and not wait for the clock to strike 3 pm for me to start working on something.

P.S. exercise helps to be at the top of your game!

6. How has Miranda helped you to become who you are today?

I am thankful to all the professors at Miranda House who not only taught us well but guided us in the right direction. Miranda made me more confident as we always had the opportunity to present our ideas, and discussions were not only limited to what we studied in class. It helped me get a broader perspective on the practical application of economics in the real world.

7. What is one piece of practical advice you would give to someone who hasn't decided a career path yet?

If you are unable to decide what you want to do, you should start by eliminating the options that you definitely would not be interested in. But as I mentioned before, never let yourself stagnate. Grab any opportunity that comes your way, work hard for it, and when you are done, you will be a step closer to your decision.

8. What drove you into the field of economics & statistics and motivated you to stick along?

I believe that throughout my school years, I have had the best teachers in Economics who inculcated a strong curiosity towards the subject. Thanks to them that I have a strong foundation in Economics. I believe a teacher can make you fall in love with the subject, and your curiosity helps you to stick along.

9. What is a life lesson you learned the hard way?

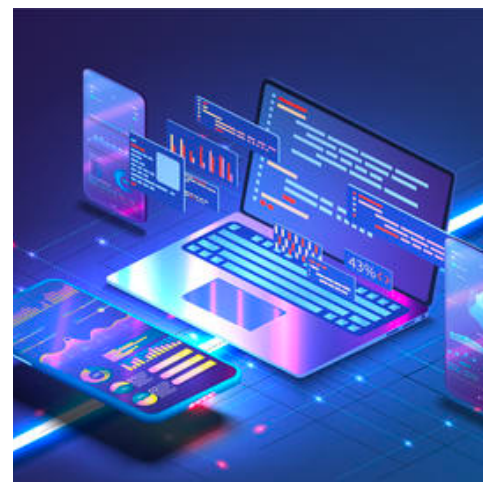
There is no alternative to Hard work and Perseverance.

One must work sincerely towards their dream goal, but we should also keep a plan B at our disposal. I strongly believe in two things: at no point in our lives should we stagnate, and there is no job or opportunity that would not help us grow or teach us something.



TOP CAREER PROSPECTS TO EXPLORE AFTER COMPUTER SCIENCE

By - Shreya Kacker, 2nd Year, Miranda House



In the present world, computers are used in every facet of life. There are now apps for just about everything, from shopping to gaming to exercise. Computer science graduates built each of those systems. Talent in CS might take you in surprising directions. Leading banks and financial services firms frequently pay their computer experts six figures per year to build code that keeps them trading one step ahead of their competitors. Because of how pervasive computers are in today's society, there will always be a need for graduates with the knowledge and abilities to comprehend systems and develop software.

Here are a few of the most popular career options:

1. IT Consultant:

A technical expert with a focus on integrating information technology into businesses and demonstrating to clients how to use IT more effectively to help them achieve goals and targets is what an IT consultant. When meeting with clients to discuss the next steps they want to take in updating and maintaining their technology, IT consultants can advise them on which new technical advancements might help them succeed. When integrating new technology into their business processes, the majority of firms are concerned about data security. With their knowledge and experience, IT consultants may advise clients on the safest and most effective technologies to utilize with the necessary data security measures. Additionally, the consultants can spot security holes in existing systems and offer workable fixes to stop breaches.

2. IT Project Manager:

A student should know certain coding languages like- Python, Java, C, C++, etc. A software engineer must be competent to work together to create systems and collect data on project constraints, capabilities, performance requirements, and interfaces with systems analysts, engineers, programmers, and others. They must be able to meet with clients to talk about the creation and upkeep of software systems; design and alter software systems while combining mathematical models and scientific analyses to gauge the effects of those designs.

3. Graphic Designer :

Graphic designers or visual communicators produce concepts by hand or with the aid of specialist graphic design tools. They communicate concepts to consumers to inspire, and educate, them through real and digital art forms that use words, images, or graphics. They have the artistic ability to turn statistical data into diagrams, drawings, logos, and promotional materials. They often interact with people in public relations, marketing, or advertising. They develop graphics for brochures, advertisements, corporate branding, and other media, such as websites.

4. Software Engineer :

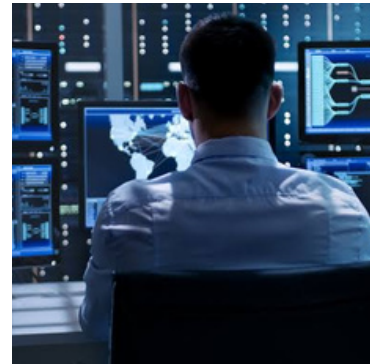
An organization's IT activities and objectives are managed by an IT project manager, a specialist tasked with supervising the process of organizing, carrying out, and assigning duties. Today businesses in every sector rely on IT systems and digital tools to run efficiently. Additionally, more workers today use various electronic devices to complete their work at the office, at home, and while on the go. A well-planned IT strategy is necessary to allow employees to access business apps from any location while protecting company data. Moreover, putting these projects into action calls for extensive strategic preparation, organization, and teamwork. The significance of IT project managers to their firms can be attributed to this.



OFFBEAT CAREER OPTIONS:

1. Game Developer:

The work a game developer conducts goes beyond simply writing the code or programming needed to make a game. They design new games, develop, test, and manage them before releasing them. They also produce the first concepts for new games. They might carry out this work as an independent developer or as a member of a production and design team. There are other prerequisites to becoming a game developer that goes way beyond just knowing coding languages like needing to cultivate your creativity and imagination.



2. AI expert:

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the result of incorporating human intelligence into machines and teaching them to think and behave similarly to humans. AI experts develop programs that assemble data, render judgments, and take appropriate action. In cognitive simulation, which uses computers to test theories about how the human mind functions, some AI experts put their knowledge to use. Because they present their ideas to corporate stakeholders, artificial intelligence specialists need to be skilled communicators. Being a successful AI Specialist requires excellent communication abilities, both verbal and written. To assist your firm in overcoming decision-making challenges, you must also possess problem-solving abilities.



3. Ethical Hacker:

An ethical hacker, or a white hat hacker, is a professional who breaches a computer system, network, application, or other computing resources on behalf of its owners with their authorization. Organizations ask ethical hackers to find potential security holes that nefarious hackers could take advantage of. The goal of ethical hacking is to assess the security of target systems, networks, or system infrastructure and find flaws. Finding vulnerabilities and attempting to exploit them are both necessary steps in the process to see if they could be used for malicious or unauthorized access. The key to gaining ethical hacking abilities is understanding how to think like a black hat hacker, but you also need to have a clear understanding of your ultimate objective, which should be to improve the security of your employer's (or client's) systems. Ethical hackers are in great demand, much like other computer and network security professions, and this demand is only going up as the cost and severity of cyberattacks continue to skyrocket.



HOW TO PLAN YOUR NEXT STEPS AFTER A JOB REJECTION

By - Dhvani Kumar, 2nd Year, Miranda House

No one likes being turned down for a job, especially when you have spent months preparing it and giving it your all during the interview, only to find out that you didn't make the cut. Being turned down for a role can not only be disheartening but sometimes even harder to bounce back from. At this time, it is important to remember that maybe the role really wasn't a good fit for you, even if you thought it was your dream job and there is something else out there that you're better suited for. It is essential to acknowledge that rejection is a part of life, that there is no shame in feeling disappointed by it, and then try to move on. Whether it is about getting back on the job search or taking some time away – planning your next steps soon after will be beneficial as it gives you the chance to turn the experience into a valuable career development opportunity.

Let's talk about how to plan your next steps after a job rejection.

1. Ask for feedback from the recruiter/ interviewer

The critical thing to do after a rejection is to think about what happened and how you can learn from it, and one of the best ways to do this is by directly asking the recruiter for personalized feedback on your application and interview. Even if it may seem a bit daunting, try asking specific questions- such as whether it was about your experience or qualification that led to your rejection, and so on. In case you initially get a generic response, do not hesitate to follow up! This ensures that you get more detailed and tailored feedback that you can use to your advantage for future interviews.



2. Take the time to reflect

While it may be tempting to brush aside the experience and never think about it again, that would mean passing up on a significant learning opportunity. After receiving the feedback, it is important to take the time to introspect and reflect on the entire application process - from the way you prepared and researched to your interactions in the interview and any follow-up. Ask yourself: What went well during the application process? What could I have done differently or better? Was I aptly able to portray what I wanted?

Don't think of this experience as a failure. Instead, see this as an opportunity to focus on your strengths and tackle any weaknesses. Try to identify themes in your feedback and appraisals to identify your development priorities and create a plan to fix the gaps in your performance. There are plenty of courses online to help you develop the required skills. After all, there is always room to improve.



3. Refine your search

Sometimes the application process itself may show you that, even though you're being rejected, you don't feel as if the job is a perfect fit for you either. After all, the interview process is a chance for both you and your potential employer to decide whether you would be suitable for the position. Take the time to review the job specification before applying for the role and deliberate over whether it is relevant for you or not. Remember, if you do not feel excited and feel like the role will not satisfy you, there is a strong chance that the interviewer will feel it as well! If you feel as if the role was not well-suited for you, look back over the job specification and analyze the areas of the position you thought were applicable to you and those that were not. Use the experience to refine your search for jobs closer to your ambition and aspiration, matching your skillset and experience. Less really can be more when it comes to a job search. It is far better to make fewer carefully targeted applications than to take a more scattergun approach, which will inevitably lead to pursuing unsuitable openings more likely to end in rejections.



4. Don't give up and keep trying

It is important to understand that, more often than not, rejection is out of your hands and that it is not personal. There could be plenty of other reasons why you did not get the job – maybe there were other interviewees with slightly more experience than you, or your timings did not work with the employer. In situations where many people are applying for the same position, it is important to remember that only one candidate can get the job. That doesn't mean that everyone who got turned down was a bad candidate or someone who should just give up!

Building resiliency is crucial after job rejection, especially if it's your first experience. The reality is that careers are often likely to be filled with different kinds of setbacks, so developing the ability to bounce back from disappointments will help you advance in your career. Taking on constructive criticism during your job search will help you find the right position in the long run. It is crucial to remember that you are not alone when facing job rejection, and therefore, you must remember to learn from the experience.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Webinars & Seminars

(July - September 2022)



'Cracking Your Dream JOB'

Talerang

30th July 2022

The Placement Cell, in collaboration with Talerang, organized a webinar on 'cracking your dream job'. Talerang, aids students, particularly those in Gen-Z, in discovering their areas of interest, honing their skills in those areas, and placing themselves accordingly. It was brought to the audience's notice that more than 60% of students who graduate from prestigious colleges are unprepared for the workforce and are therefore unhireable. The speaker, Aishwariya Chauhan, enlightened the audience on where most of the students lack when planning to join the workforce. The students lack good first impressions, communication skills, self-leadership, and life vision among others. The session also involved an in-depth discussion on resume building, as it is the first and very crucial step in the job application process. The students were informed not only about their part in the job application process but also about the recruiter's perspective. The speaker counseled the students on how to nail interviews, in the end.

How to Get Admit to Top B- Schools?

IMS Centre for International Education

27th August 2022

The session commenced with discussing top career paths in the field of management. Then the speaker went on to guide the audience on how to choose whether to study in India or abroad. This helped the students to analyze rationally, their future prospects. Further, the possible career options after management studies were discussed. The audience gained more interest when MiM was introduced. MiM is a Management program for candidates with 0 - 2 years of experience. The duration of this program is 11 to 24 months and is equivalent to IIM PGP. The career prospects along with the top Business Schools offering this program were discussed briefly. The session continued by elaborating on the pros and cons of deferred MBA programs. The audience was most curious to know about the route to MBA and MiM programs, both in India and abroad. The speaker also enlightened the audience about the selection criteria for B-Schools' recruitment. IMS CLE will aid students looking for guidance related to management courses.





Young Leaders Programme

Indian School of Business

13th September 2022

The Placement Cell, Miranda House in collaboration with the Indian School of Business did a seminar on the Young Leaders Programme by Ketan Tiwari, Senior Manager-Admissions and Financial Aid. The Indian School of Business (ISB) evolved from the need for a world-class business school in Asia. It is funded entirely by private corporations, foundations, and individuals from around the world who believe in its vision, the ISB is a not-for-profit organization. The speaker gave us an insight into the rankings. According to the AMA 2020 Research Productivity Ranking, it got ranked 1 in Asia and 44 globally. He further explained the pedagogy which emphasizes integrated learning through classroom, applied, and peer learning and through events and competitions. The speaker then explained the Alumni network of ISB which spreads with a network of more than 13,500+ Alumni working in prominent industries to 11 Unicorns. The speaker briefly notified me about the multiple scholarships offered and their selection criteria. He then dealt with the nuances of the entry process, briefing me about the different modes of entry. The session then ended with a question-answer session fuelled by ideas, inclusivity, and knowledge.

Case Study Preparations

T.I.M.E Institute

17th September 2022

The Placement Cell, in collaboration with T.I.M.E Institute, organized a webinar on 'How to prepare for case studies for recruitment processes. This webinar was organized, realizing the importance of case studies in the current placements scenario and also in higher education in top B schools and MBA colleges. The speaker, Aditi Mishra, enlightened the students on the step-wise approach that should be adopted while tackling a case study. The first step should be to identify and define the problem followed by analyzing it. Students were advised to not give general statements as answers, rather they should look into the depth of the problem, select the best course of action, and incorporate the risk management factors. The moral and ethical aspects of decision-making were also discussed briefly. The students were informed about the skills that are checked via case study solving tasks. These skills include morals, ethics, fairness, prioritization ability, logical and analytical sense, and common sense. The session concluded with practice questions for a better insight on how to apply the tips and tricks discussed formerly. The students found the session very insightful and would be helpful in the ongoing placement season.



UPSC Preparation

UPSC Adda 247 Platform

19th September 2022

The Placement Cell, in collaboration with UPSC Adda 24/7, held an offline seminar to enlighten UPSC aspirants. Adda 247 is an online platform training students for UPSC and State exams. The team at Adda 247 IAS believes in mentorship rather than just teaching students. Alongside the final aim of cracking UPSC, they mentor candidates through continuous counseling for any personal or professional issue they might face. The session was conducted by the core faculty members- Mr. Siddharth, Ms. Aadhya, and Mr. Ankit. The speakers gave a captivating talk about not just the process of preparing for UPSC but life beyond it. The speakers, UPSC aspirants themselves, emphasized the need for a true and helpful mentor in the journey of preparing for such a prestigious exam as UPSC. What grabbed the audience's attention was the little factors that make or break one's preparation. The speakers spoke from experience, giving their words more credibility. The session came to an end with a Q/A session with Mr. Prabhat Singh - IRPS (Batch of 2019), virtually. Mr. Singh talked about his own experience and helped students clarify the doubts they might have about their preparation.



Gateway to Financial Freedom

Hedge School of Applied Economics

24th September 2022

Financial freedom refers to having enough residual income to cover your living expenses. It is not about being rich, but rather being satisfied. One can start their journey toward financial freedom by starting investing early with a goal-based approach. This shall not be a large amount, but a small SIP too can go a long way in the long term. Try to build a contingency fund and imbibe good money habits in your day-to-day life.

The speaker went on to talk about A Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), more popularly known as SIP, which is a facility offered by mutual funds to investors to invest in a disciplined manner. One of the tools for SIP is Groww. The session ended with discussing some career opportunities in the finance sector. These include Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), Chartered Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Financial Planner (CFP), Financial Risk Manager (FRM) certification, and others



TOP 10 SKILLS THAT YOUR RESUME CAN BENEFIT FROM

By - Palak Sharma, 2nd Year, Miranda House

A resume acts as a bridge between the employee and the recruiter. So, to make a good first impression, your resume must stand out from the crowd first. A well-formatted and designed resume changes how the recruiters perceive you, dramatically increasing your employment opportunities.

Know that recruiters already have stacked resumes flying in and to catch their attention to your resume, here are the 10 most important skills that can add stars to your resume.

2. Leadership

Leadership qualities help in maintaining morale among the team members while enhancing productivity in the workplace. Recruiters pick candidates who reflect leadership, confidence, accountability, and integrity.

To develop leadership skills, one should:

- Be a part of more projects, events, and seminars. Hold a position of responsibility in college events and societies. This will in turn make you reliable and responsible.
- Develop clear communication skills to leave better impressions on people and to deliver your thoughts more precisely.
- Develop self-confidence by getting engaged in various tasks that can instill self validations.

1. Data Analysis

Markets have rich and high demands for data analysts. Companies actively seek candidates who can inspect, model, and pull the useful information from data because a data analyst's resume reflects both soft skills (like collaboration and public speaking and hard skills (like understanding excel and python).

To develop this skill, one can start with learning the basics of a programming language like python, R, or Stata. Further, start interacting with data using SQL and brush up on your spreadsheet skills using Exce



3. Critical Thinking

A critical thinker evaluates sources of information- data, facts, and research findings.

Critical thinking guides good decision-making, helping you spot possible obstacles and discover solutions to them. It assists you and your coworkers in coming up with new ideas to achieve objectives.

Critical thinking helps in identifying, and addressing workflow inefficiencies, improving management practices, guiding financial decisions, and cultivating a strategic attitude. Employers want critical thinkers to evaluate a situation using logical thought and to offer the best solution.

4. Writing and Editing

Being a strong writer isn't only helpful if you work as an editor. Being able to write clear, effective emails, papers, presentations, and messages is a valuable skill for many different jobs, especially those in business and marketing.

Blog-writing is one of the most prestigious skills which has a huge demand in today's market. Copywriting, proofreading, email drafting, and storytelling are a few other examples of writing and editing.



5. Language & Communication

Communication is a critical part of any job, and depending on the role, you may need to communicate with colleagues, managers, and customers. Recruiters often look for language skills because they show your ability to communicate with a diverse range of people.

A fluent language proficiency showcases your personality and makes you an absolute asset for employers.

Having a foreign language literacy is an important tool in business for globalizing and expanding customer circumference.

6. Research Skills

Research skills are skills that help you target a goal, compile appropriate information, and relay these findings to other people

Having strong research skills can help you understand your competitors, develop new processes, and build your professional skills in addition to aiding you in finding new customers and saving your company money.

Some of the most valuable research skills you can have include goal setting, data collection, and analyzing information from multiple sources.

To develop research skills, one must learn the art of searching, data processing, analyzing, and strategizing. One can opt for research projects or research internships in think tanks to develop a deeper understanding on this subject



7. Marketing

An employee with strong marketing strategies and tactics can take a struggling product and make it successful. That's what makes marketing one of the most sought-after skills across nearly every industry. A premier way to learn marketing is to study the market and its needs. One may opt for an online course from Udemy, Coursera, etc. For practicing marketing, one should apply for an internship under a brand or a marketing agency. This will give you real-world insight.



8. Problem Solving

Problem-solving skills refer to one's ability to identify a problem and find a solution. Problem-solving skills allow you to fix problems that might cost your employer time and money. From small issues of inefficiency to massive failures that halt production, being able to quickly identify a problem, develop a solution, and implement it is a skill that can benefit you in your corporate journey. To develop problem-solving abilities, one should indulge themselves in group projects. Such projects compel us to analyze the cause, plan the process of events, communicate with the team and present the best solution. This also helps to develop leadership and time management skills.

9. Computer Technology

Nearly every job requires a minimum level of computer literacy. Candidates with relevant computer and software skills are valuable and a priority in the hiring process.

Being tech-savvy makes your uphill journey to your dream job very smooth.

Some examples of computer skills to upskill yourself-

- Adobe Creative Suite
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Communication platforms (Skype, Slack, Microsoft Teams)
- Team management software (Jira, Trello, Monday)

10. Management

Management skills are crucial to showing you can lead, manage projects, and manage budgets. Management skills are important in your resume because they demonstrate that you can:

- Communicate effectively
- Handle conflict well
- Solve problems on your own or with others
- Build relationships
-

By having these skills, managers can make sure their teams are successful at work.



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READING LIST

- Guidepost
(E - Magazine 2021 - 2022)
- Journal (2022)
- Career Spectrum (Infographic)
 - Consulting
 - Research / Academia

