

Skype-interview

Greetings

The way you start your exam is very important. Do not forget to greet the teacher

- Hello/Good morning/Good afternoon
- My name is...
- Remember that 'How do you do?' is a greeting not a question and the correct response is to repeat 'How do you do?'
- 'How are you?' is a question and the most common and polite response is "I am fine thank you and you?"

If you do not understand the question, be prepared to ask for repetition or clarification if necessary. You could use one of the following phrases:

□ Repetition

- I am sorry, could you repeat that please?
- Could / can you say that again, please?
- Would you mind saying that again, please?

□ Clarification:

- Would you mind clarifying this point?
- I'm not sure if I've fully understood the main idea of the question. Could you explain it to me?
- What does ("the word") mean/ stand for?
- Could you explain please ...

Asking about words

Try to provide answer to the question using the words you know well, but if you have forgotten some words do not hesitate to ask the teacher. The following phrases may help you:

- I'm not sure that this is the right word, but...
- I might be a bit mistaken in using this term, but what I mean is...

Giving Your Opinion

There is a variety of ways how to express your opinion when speaking English. The choice of an expression to be used in the particular situation depends on how strong your opinion is, i.e. how sure you are about a particular thing.

Giving Your Opinion Neutrally

- I think...
- I feel that...
- In my opinion...
- As far as I'm concerned...
- As I see it...
- In my view...
- I tend to think that...
- From my point of view...

Giving a Strong Opinion

- I'm absolutely convinced that...
- I'm sure that...
- I strongly believe that...
- I have no doubt that...
- There is no doubt that ...
- I am absolutely certain that ...

Expressing Uncertainty

- I definitely doubt if that ...
- I am not sure that ...
- I am not certain that ...
- As far as I know ...
- It is very doubtful whether ...

Rephrasing Expressions

Sometimes we say things that other people don't understand, or we give the wrong impression. If you are asked to explain or clarify your idea, do not use the same expressions and/or phrases, try to reformulate it starting your answer using one of the following phrases:

- What I meant to say was...
- Let me rephrase that...
- Let me put this another way...
- Perhaps I'm not making myself clear...
- The basic idea is...
- One way of looking at it is...
- Another way of looking at it is...
- What I want to say is...

Delaying Your Answer

Sometimes we need extra time to structure our answer in a more logical way. You may win some seconds by using the following phrases:

- Well, let me see...
- Let me think for a moment, please...
- That is a very interesting question...

Motivation

Describing your personality

Here are some adjectives to use:

- Ambitious: having or showing a strong desire and determination to succeed
- Easy-going: a relaxed person who is easy to get along with
- Hard-working: someone who works well and isn't lazy
- Committed: a person who is loyal to a project or person
- Trustworthy: someone who you can rely on
- Honest: someone who tells the truth
- Focused: someone who is not easily distracted
- Methodical: a person who pays attention to details and works in a logical way
- Proactive: someone who takes steps to complete tasks without supervision

You can say: I'm (easy-going), or I'm a/an easy-going person

- Innovative: eager to introduce new, creative ideas
- Organised: efficient, well prepared
- Punctual: timely
- I have a natural ability to...
- Eager to learn
- Hobbies: leisure activities/interests
- Weaknesses

Describing your personality

Do not forget to prepare a beautiful answer to the question “What are your weaknesses?”

Examples of talking about weaknesses in order to still show yourself in a favorable way

- I think that at the moment I tend to be a bit too individualistic, but I am learning to work in team and to become a true team-player. This is why I would like to study at GRIAT. I am sure it will give me this opportunity.
- I am afraid I tend to focus on studies too much and sometimes I do not get enough of rest. I am learning to combine effectively all parts of my life. I believe studying at GRIAT with totally new opportunities like working on company projects, studying languages, meeting peers from all over the world, travelling to Germany will help me broaden my horizon and develop self-discipline
- I lack international experience. I have never travelled or been abroad, I have never had any friends from other countries. This lack of experience might influence my ability to communicate in English fluently or bring some additional difficulties in working in international teams. This is why I think entering GRIAT will become a life-changing experience for me and a chance to get this crucial experience.
- Etc.

NB: Weaknesses are not a bad thing as long as you see them, know how to work on them and understand what steps to take to improve yourself. It is better to show that you are conscious and motivated rather than that you are a perfect human being (no one will believe it anyways ☺)

Your goals for the future

Here's your moment to tell the interviewer why you are the right person for this program

Describe your goals for the future and tell why you want to study at GRIAT

- I'm looking to further my skills as...
- I'm want to further my career in...
- I feel my skills set is a perfect fit for this program and I can contribute by...
- In line with my qualifications...
- I want to take on more responsibility...
- I want to pursue a career in...
- I want to start my own business
- I want to make an international career in...
- I want to make a research...
- I want to enter PhD studies and carry out a scientific research devoted to...

Vocabulary

Do not forget to make a list of most common professional terms for this program. You will be asked the questions to check the level of your professional knowledge as well!

Tips:

- Make a short abstract of your bachelor thesis, including professional terms
- Make a description of a job you are dreaming of (incl. professional terms)
- Make a list of the most important books for your profession (incl. professional terms – content of this book, key laws/algorithms/theories/rules etc.)
- Make a list of equipment you need for your profession
- Try to describe the biggest, the most interesting, the most actual projects in your field of interest (Bitcoins, Hyper loop, Solar energy etc.)
- Check the recommended topics for the admission exam at Kazan Aviation Institute (pk.kai.ru)

Idioms and useful phrases

To have/to take/to use a chance/a possibility/an opportunity

- Chance: to take a chance on; to take chances
- Opportunity: jump at the opportunity; it is a good opportunity to/for
- Possibility: consider the possibility; beyond/within the realms of possibility
- Experience (lack of / lots of/): have/gather/obtain/get an experience; growth experience; a life changing experience
- “I want”: I would like to, I am eager to, I long for, I head for, I aim at, I wish I could
- “I think”: I believe, I guess, I consider this to be
- Study experience: make a research; to write a theses/a report/an essay; to make/do tasks; pass/fail exams; take a part in smth, to present a project, to have an internship, to work in a laboratory/lab, to use the equipment, to develop/find/make a solution, to choose a research topic, to present/defend an idea, to work with professor on the research

Saying “Goodbye”

You can say:

- Thank you, I appreciate your time in interviewing me. Goodbye.
- Thank you. I really enjoyed meeting and talking with you. Goodbye.
- Thank you, goodbye. Have a Good Day!

Confident, respectful and appreciative is what you want to convey

General recommendations

1. Keep calm and be self-confident ☺
1. Do not be afraid to ask again if you didn't hear or didn't get the question
1. Train and prepare the answers to all possible questions about your life, studies, career goals, life goals. Prepare elaborative answers to the questions in the application form. It is better to make professors interrupt you than make an impression that you have nothing to tell
1. Study the information about the city in Germany and the university, where you will study during your 3d semester. It would be great if you could prove to the German professors that you want to enter GRIAT because you know exactly why this program and this university are useful for you

Please, do not hesitate to contact us and ask any questions

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