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# Plastic Surgeons

## Answer 1 Question

Reflections of an Interview

*by ThePlasticsFella.com*

Thank you to all those who contributed to this free digital book.



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# THE 1 INTERVIEW QUESTION

## *Reflections on the Interview*

The TPF team have created a free digital book aimed at Plastic Surgery Trainees preparing for interviews. It's pretty simple – it's a compilation of Plastic Surgery Consultants/Attendings & Trainees providing advice by answering 1 question. Everyone is asked the same question and the purpose is to detail the contrasting viewpoints of the interview experience from two sides of the desk.

The aim is to provide some casual advice and a more well-rounded picture of the interview experience for trainees (who would be obviously quite nervous!)

What is something you wish you knew before going into that Plastic Surgery Interview?

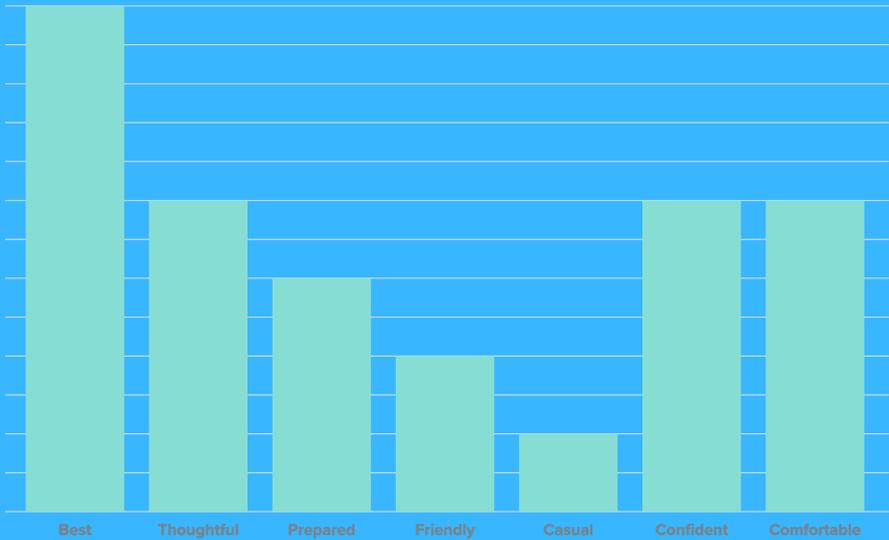
# The Question



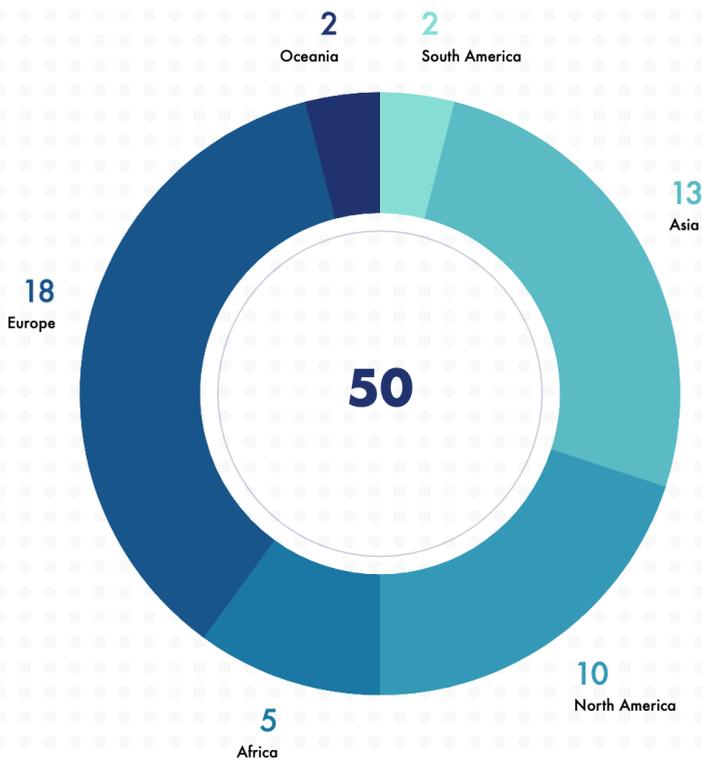


# ANALYSIS

WHAT WAS THE MOST COMMON WORD?



ThePlasticsFella team analysed all the answers. This is a visual representation of the most common word.



# WHERE DID THEY INTERVIEW?





**Oh by the way,**

# **Did you know?**

You can join the club  
for free at  
[ThePlasticsFella.com](http://ThePlasticsFella.com)





# Sebastián Galeano

Interview Location: Argentina  
Current Position: Consultant/Attending  
Experience: Interviewee and Interviewer

"Be yourself, sincere, enthusiastic, willing to do your best and to learn. Convey security and demonstrate clear goals.

But the most important thing of all is to show that you are a good person, that you will work to provide the best to your patients and your colleagues.

The best exercise is to put yourself in the shoes of your interviewers to discover what they expect of you"



# Avi

Interview Location: United States  
Current Position: Consultant/Attending  
Experience: Interviewee and Interviewer

"The more conversational, the better.

Initially interviews that were just about superficial or random topics made me nervous because I wanted to "show off" that I had good research knowledge/experience or clinical understanding etc.

But I realized that those casual interviews were the best ones because the interviewer was comfortable chatting with me and it allowed me to show them that training me for six years would be a good experience and that we would get along.

The plastic surgery content of the interview ended up being much less important than the flow, comfort, and collegiality of the experience"



# Jeyaram Srinivasan

Interview Location: United Kingdom  
Current Position: Consultant/Attending  
Experience: Interviewer

"The panel usually is looking for a pleasant, motivated, honest and cheerful person who will flourish in this interesting specialty.

You will acquire specialist knowledge over many years AFTER getting selected - so, no need to cram with super specialised details".



# Adam Gilmour

Interview Location: United Kingdom  
Current Position: Consultant/Attending  
Experience: Interviewer and Interviewee

"The Plastic Surgery interview (National selection) in the UK is like an exam. Preparation is key in order to score well and not only obtain a training number but to obtain a training number in the region you wish!"



# Darshil Rajgor

Interview Location: India

Current Position: Registrar/Resident

Experience: Interviewee

"Burns, Plastic & Reconstructive surgery is a vast subject. Interviewer has a variety of topics to ask from head to toe.

I can say that many people in surgical fields are not aware about the reach of this field especially in countries like India. But basics of general plastic surgery is the key for success.

Nobody will expect more than that from you. And it will reflect your interest in the field and your surgical work you have done in past years. All the best.."



# Nikhil Agrawal

Interview Location: United States  
Current Position: Hand Fellow  
Experience: Interviewer and Interviewee

"Programs care a lot about your happiness so they want you to have an honest perception of what you are getting into.

Be ready to ask lots of questions of the faculty and residents. The more you know about the research and clinical interests of each faculty member the better prepared you will be to show your interest in the program.

Some interviewers will spend the entire time asking if you have questions for them!"



# Michael Rebeiro

Interview Location: South Africa  
Current Position: Consultant/Attending  
Experience: Interviewer and Interviewee

"You are more knowledgeable than you think at the time.

Hard work and experience counts but you have to calm your nerves to convey these - take a deep breath and know that your interviewers were on your side of the table, not so long-ago!

They are gauging you in more general sense and are not as concerned on the science and detail".



# Ebba Lindqvist

Interview Location: Sweden, United Kingdom  
Current Position: Consultant/Attending  
Experience: Interviewer and Interviewee

"Know that you can in fact steer the interview a little. Especially towards the second half of the interview, when everyone relaxes, and you have already shown you can answer direct questions.

Here's what, how and why: Decide beforehand what is truly important to you to convey to the interviewers; it may be your special skills or merits, experience, interests or achievements. If you claim to have a special interest in a particular area, be ready to give specific examples of what you have done within that area (surgeries, research, audits etc). Then make sure you get the opportunity to say what you intend to say - it may be through answering a direct question, but it may also be through going off on a tangent (which is fine to do, if done smoothly and with a purpose!). It can even be that at the end of the interview you take the initiative to say "Thank you. I would like to add / I want you to know that ..."

Following this strategy you will feel more in charge, give a confident and ambitious impression, and after the interview you can feel confident that you have gotten the most important information about you across"



# Chris Hoo

Interview Location: United Kingdom  
Current Position: Consultant/Attending  
Experience: Interviewee

"Interviews for a significant / permanent job is like getting into a significant relationship. The questions are less to do with what you can do and more about who you are and what makes you tick.

Advice which has served me well is NEVER BULLSHIT and be genuine. Interviewers are experienced clinicians and are likely experienced at interviews; thus they (like you) spend a lot of their time making quick summary judgements about people (patients and interviewees alike) and can usually pick up bullshit readily. Think of any clinical interaction, as doctors we are TRAINED to ask probing questions and make judgement calls in a short period of time.

And like any significant relationship, being genuine so as to portray your true self to your future colleagues - you don't want to be putting up a facade for the rest of your working time in the unit. If you don't 'fit' in the unit, it's probably for the best that you know that early"



# Damien Wang

Interview Location: China

Current Position: Consultant/Attending

Experience: Interviewer



"In preparation, I'd like to know more about the basic knowledge about the discipline, as well as the appetite of the chief doctors or other things like that".



# Tom Dobbs

Interview Location: United Kingdom  
Current Position: Registrar/Resident  
Experience: Interviewee



"They just want to see that you are safe and sensible. No heroics or crazy options, just that you can make sensible safe decisions on patient care and escalate appropriately"



# Murilo Sgarbi

## Secanho

Interview Location: Brazil

Current Position: Registrar/Resident

Experience: Interviewee

"I didn't realize that I should know the biography of each interviewers"



# Metasebia W.

## Abebe

Interview Location: Ethiopia  
Current Position: Consultant/Attending  
Experience: Interviewee

"It is good to go prepared on why you want to join plastic surgery and be confident in answering their questions.

Other than that, it is more of a friendly conversation with people who want to know more about you, your level of interest and commitment to the field of Plastic Surgery."



# Matthew Woodworth

Interview Location: United Kingdom  
Current Position: Registrar/Resident  
Experience: Interviewee

"No-one is trying to trick you.

It is a fair and standardised process. You need to know the basics well and be able to communicate that knowledge sensibly to get the majority of the marks.

They are appointing trainees that they believe would be the best consultant colleagues in the future."



# Daniel Liu

Interview Location: USA

Current Position: Consultant/Attending

Experience: Interviewee and Interviewer

"Beyond the typical canned responses about "why this specialty" or "why this program," be prepared to think on your feet about problem-solving.

The most interesting interview questions involved some drawing, 3-dimensional thinking, and creative uses of common surgical instruments."



# David McGill

Interview Location: United Kingdom  
Current Position: Consultant/Attending  
Experience: Interviewee and Interviewer

"Try to anticipate the common questions you will be asked but don't rote learn answers.

Try to get specific points across e.g. areas where you excel or your CV is strong and try to steer clear of weak areas unless specifically asked about them. If you are asked about weak areas try to have answers why that is the case and how you plan to address them.

Final point is to get someone to spell check and read your CV / application form. It never helps your position to present a sloppy or poorly prepared CV or application form with mistakes and this should be easily avoided with a bit of preparation"



# Jorge Leon-Villapalos

Interview Location: United Kingdom  
Current Position: Consultant/Attending  
Experience: Interviewee and Interviewer

"Remaining calm and being your own person with a number of attributes shining through the interview like humbleness, decency and honesty added to the Plastic Surgery Knowledge wins the day.

They are looking for a day 1 Consultant colleague who is skilled but also someone they can trust, a team member who is also a human being enjoying looking after patients who fits into an established group."



# Hatan Mortada

Interview Location: Saudi Arabia  
Current Position: Resident/Registrar  
Experience: Interviewee

"It's important to do research about the program prior to going in for an interview.

You want to be able to sell yourself as the best candidate for this program and the best way to do this is by learning all that you can about them".



# Arun jeedi

Interview Location: India

Current Position: Consultant/Attending

Experience: Interviewee

"Nothing as such, when I went for an interview I knew most of the basics of plastic surgery.

But one thing every plastic surgery residents should know before going for interview is Sir Harold Gillie's principles. His principles were not only plastic surgery pearls, a life teaching indeed".



# Juan Varela

Interview Location: Spain

Current Position: Consultant/Attending

Experience: Interviewee and Interviewer

"Mostly that the interview was more about person to person chat than a professional interview"



# Sarah Sabur

Interview Location: Morocco  
Current Position: Consultant/Attending  
Experience: Interviewee

"I wish I knew that it will be better to imagine myself facing the patient condition and ask myself what will I do to deal with the patient and try to answer my questions .

I think it is better than reading the whole chapter without imaging my strategy in real life"



# Karen Lindsay

Interview Location: United Kingdom  
Current Position: Resident/Registrar  
Experience: Interviewer and Interviewee

"In the UK getting a training number the interview is like an exam. I wish first time round I'd realised it was an exam, not an interview."



# Oladipupo

# Oladimeji

Interview Location: Nigeria  
Current Position: Consultant/Attending  
Experience: Interviewee

"Simply that Aesthetic Surgery will not be taught in detail as part of the training , and I had to place it at the back of my list of things to achieve during training; literally."



# Alberto Aguirre Oramas

Interview Location: La Habana Cuba  
Current Position: Registrar/Resident  
Experience: Interviewee



"Dar más detalladamente las ramas de la cirugía plástica"



# Ali Arnaout

Interview Location: United Kingdom  
Current Position: Registrar/Resident  
Experience: Interviewee

"How quick the clinical scenarios were, just need to know what you actually do in daily practice and not spend hour reading various chapters unnecessarily"



# Feras M. Alshomer

Interview Location: Saudi Arabia  
Current Position: Consultant/Attending  
Experience: Interviewee and Interviewer

"The plastic surgery program interview was quite odd. At the beginning, the repetition was lots of reading and preparation was a must. It was mentioned that sounds me one need to prepare with detailed knowledge about the projects, papers, skills mentioned in the CV. It is quite right. However, this had lead to increased tension and pressure prior to the actual interview.

In the interview, the process was so nice and easy and did not reach to the expected level of tension and pressure. What I wish was that if the true picture of the interview process was clarified.

Yes, you have to be honest, and yes you have to prepare your replies to answer any question related to the content you are presenting in your CV, but in a friendly and professional manner away from any exaggeration".



# Foiz Ahmed

Interview Location: United Kingdom  
Current Position: Consultant/Attending  
Experience: Interviewee

"I had prepared most of the standard questions, but the interview system was very new (no one had done this style before) and so the advice was very limited.

I hadn't realised how many people would be present on the panel. It's really important to address everyone in your answer - and try not to just "stare out" the interviewer who asked the question.

It's important to be friendly and conversational with everyone, but to find enough balance to remain in a comfortable and respectful zone of interaction"



# Alan Rogers

Interview Location: Canada, UK, South Africa, New Zealand  
Current Position: Consultant/Attending  
Experience: Interviewee and Interviewer

"I believe those interviewing you want to establish whether you are somebody they would enjoy working with, that you are reliable, and a team player.

The fact that you are getting an interview suggests your knowledge and skills are likely up to scratch. It is your work ethic, humility, character and personality that are more important"



# George Kokosis

Interview Location: USA

Current Position: Consultant/Attending

Experience: Interviewee

"That an important interview requires a second look, i.e. a second round of interviews to allow both parties to clarify/discuss further"



# Sameer Halani

Interview Location: USA

Current Position: Resident/Registrar

Experience: Interviewee and Interviewer

"I wish I knew how little interviewers cared how much I knew about plastic surgery and more were interested about what drew me to it.

People are just trying to get to know you and want to know if you are a.) someone who enjoys working hard, b.) a decent, honest human being, and c.) tolerable to be around for 6-8 hours at a time.

Interviews are about finding a place you WANT to be at with people YOU want to be around"



# Hatem Alnoman

Interview Location: Saudi Arabia and Canada  
Current Position: Consultant/Attending  
Experience: Interviewee and Interviewer

"You should definitely be yourself and spontaneous.

Try to be smart in answering tricky scenario questions like what would you do if there was a conflict or ethical situation with your senior".



# Robert Manton

Interview Location: United Kingdom  
Current Position: Registrar/Resident  
Experience: Interviewee and Interviewer

"I wish I'd realised earlier that all individuals' routes to the interview are different.

You might be waiting alongside someone with many more years experience and qualifications/papers than you think you have, don't be intimidated or think you are out of the running.

Do what you do well and show off what you have done (it'll undoubtedly be impressive)."



# Miguel I. Dorante

Interview Location: United States  
Current Position: Registrar/Resident  
Experience: Interviewee

"I had wish that I had spent more time looking at interests of the attending surgeons so that I could relate to them more and make conversation, because at the end of the day that's what the interview is"



# Theodora

Interview Location: United Kingdom  
Current Position: Registrar/Resident  
Experience: Interviewee

"Plastic Surgery as a field is generally much more creative than I thought.

It is very useful to learn the basic principles from a textbook but you will have to improvise and come up with solutions on the spot as each case is unique.

Explain to the interviewer your thought process with reasoning and this will lead up in a more casual conversation!"



# Kemi Ayoade

Interview Location: Nigeria

Current Position: Consultant/Attending

Experience: Interviewee

"During my interview, I was asked how I would establish a "new" Burn unit in my institution. I rattled out all I had memorised about the setting up the structure, bed spacing, equipment etc but I had to be prompted to talk about building a "burn team" which is way more important.

Going in to the interview you need to think as an administrator rather than as a surgeon only since the job entails you leading a multidisciplinary team".



# Rapid Fire

Abdulwahab Mabkhoot  
Ali Meqbel  
Trainee in Saudi Arabia

I have the honor to gain experience with you and discuss the best global topics.

Niño Lucero  
Consultant/Attending in  
Phillipines

Its highly interactive with other surgical specialties

Samir  
Consultant/Attending in  
Saudi Arabia

Clear idea about the subjects to be discussed, the time frame, Expectations. Avoid question has debit

Asmaa  
Resident/Registrar in  
UK

To know more about conducting Audits and to do some

Tanveer Ahmed  
Consultant/Attending in  
Bangladesh

What should be the tricks to satisfy the examiner.

To all those that contributed,

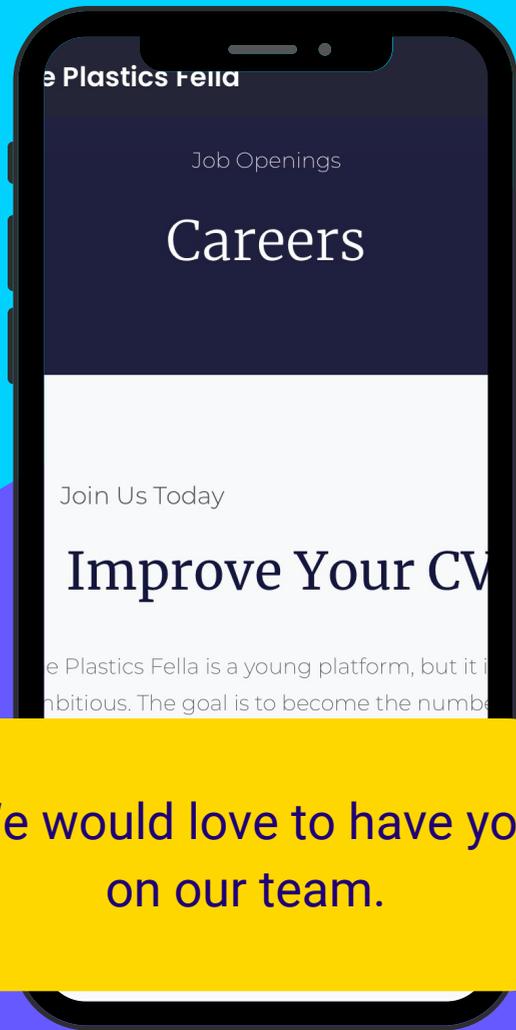
**THANK  
YOU!**

ThePlasticsFella team and  
community appreciate your time  
and effort.



ThePlasticsFella team is growing. We currently have an international faculty of content creators, editors and fun people.

# Work with us



We would love to have you  
on our team.