

Muslim Engineers' Network (MEngN) Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Assalaamu Alaikum,

I hope you and your family are in the best of health and Eman during these testing times.

Our network has had one of its busiest quarters towards the end 2020 where we have had a number of successful webinars including a series with MEND during Islamophobia Awareness month (November) and a series in collaboration with Wahed Invest UK on Personal Investments and Personal Pensions.

We have also rolled out the first series of Technical webinars, held on a bi-weekly basis on Thursday at 6:00PM GMT. These webinars will take us up Ramadhan, where there will be a brief hiatus before re-commencing with series 2 after Eid-al Fitr.

In this quarter we aim to have our first University Workshop session at Sheffield University. This webinar, in collaboration with Sheffield Uni ISoc, will provide University students with an opportunity to hear the experiences and successes of Professional Muslims in various Engineering sectors.

If you like to volunteer for an upcoming event, please reach out to us on contact@mengineersnet.com.

Finally, I hope you have a blessed Ramadhan, may Allah swt accept all your dua and ibadah and make them weighty on the scales. Ameen

Best regards,

Umar Mahboob



Ever checked your inbox after putting hours into an application for your dream graduate job and seeing the dreaded 'Thank you for your application. We are sorry to inform you....'? The feeling of disappointment starts to become too familiar and almost expected after the first few. For some, the process of finding a job seems relatively easy. However, in the world we live in today where the job market for engineering roles is competitive, it's normal to feel like no one will ever be willing to give you an opportunity. It's normal to feel anxious about the telephone interviews or online tests you may have to complete until you get your lucky break. I'm here to tell you that as long as you continue to put in the effort and improve yourself, the right opportunity will find you. Here are 5 proactive ways to increase your chances of landing that perfect role:



1. Increase your knowledge

You may feel that university didn't prepare you to be well informed about the types of engineering roles available and the variety of sectors you can work in. Try to do some background research on different sectors (e.g. energy, food, pharmaceuticals..) and reflect on the kind of impact you would like to have on the world during your lifetime. For example, if you have an interest in the energy industry and providing sustainable energy solutions, focus your job search on the energy industry. Don't be shy to contact professionals who work in those sectors for advice. LinkedIn is a great platform for this and most people are enthusiastic to help.

2. The Early Bird gets the worm

Although many companies provide a 2-3 month window for you to submit your application, many of them are reviewing submissions on a first-come first-serve basis and will choose the most promising candidates in batches. So, the earlier you apply, the more likely you are to get through to the final stage. Stay organised ahead of the application openings. Many open up at the end of August or beginning of September, so aim to have your CV and Cover Letter ready before then.

3. A Quality CV goes a long way

You can find thousands of tips on how to curate a good CV online. Use these resources to your advantage. What makes an effective CV varies depending on the profession, but get yours checked by someone who works within the industry you are applying for, rather than a general careers service, as they are likely to be better informed about what the recruiter is looking for. Your CV is the first glimpse that a recruiter will get into the kind of person you are, hence, minor mistakes such as typos and formatting issues can have a big impact on the success of your application. So give yourself enough time to prepare and get it checked over by a fresh set of eyes.

4. Practice competency questions

There are some questions that employers are extremely likely to ask. For example, 'Describe a time when you have been a team player?' or 'Describe a time when you solved a difficult problem?'. These are questions you can prepare well for beforehand and are essentially points in the bag. Don't take these questions for granted. Prepare well thought out answers, that are structured and clear (research STAR (Situation-Task-Action-Result) answers). You can take a relatively mundane situation and pull out specific actions that you took during that experience to showcase your unique skills.



For example, if I am trying to describe the time where I showed my teamworking skills while working in a part-time role at Tesco's, I can describe how I communicated with others, examples of solving conflict, where I influenced others and so on. All important attributes of being a good team player. Other questions such as 'Why do you want to work here?' or 'Why did you choose this role?' are brilliant opportunities to make a good impression because you can research and prepare your answer beforehand. Perhaps you can research something unique about the company that not many know about. Or get in touch with a professional who is already in a similar role to find out what it's really about and why you would be suited to such a role.

5. Take the opportunities that come your way

You might have a particular role and type of company in mind that you would like to work for. However, finding a role is a two-way exchange. Not only should you feel that the company is right for you, but the company will be recruiting people who they think will be the right fit for them. Sometimes opportunities come our way that we may not have expected. Take these opportunities and make the most of them. Often, once we get our foot into the door of an industry, we can learn more about ourselves, find our likes and dislikes and over the course of a few years, move our way around to where we ultimately want to be. Your first role may not be your dream job, but with the right attitude it can lead you there.

There is no 'one-way' or set of rules for landing a graduate role. However, combining all of the tips and advice described above will help you to increase your chances. Keep learning from your mistakes, increasing in knowledge and striving for your goals. The trial will pass and eventually the hard work will pay off.

“Your first role may not be your dream job, but with the right attitude it can lead you there.”





Without a doubt, one of life's hardest events is seeing a loved one pass away. The feeling of loss and void within us, is one that cannot be filled with any item of this world. The question is how do we persevere, stay strong and work towards healing positively.

What should we do?

The truth is, no matter what we do or say will change the reality nor bring our loved ones back. At the same time, this does not mean that we should lose hope and sit on our hands.

Emotions

It is natural for a person to feel sad, grieve and cry over the loss of a close one.

Anas Bin Malik Narrates: Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) took Ibrahim and kissed him and smelled him and later we entered Abu Saif's house and at that time Ibrahim was in his last breaths, and the eyes of Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) started shedding tears. `Abdur Rahman bin `Auf said, "O Allah's Messenger, even you are weeping!" He said, "O Ibn `Auf, this is mercy." Then he wept more and said, "The eyes are shedding tears and the heart is grieved, and we will not say except what pleases our Lord, O Ibrahim! Indeed, we are grieved by your separation." (Bukhari)

We understand that crying and grieving is not in our control but saying and doing things which may displease Allah, is in our control. Hence, questioning Qadr (fate) and the decisions of Allah is not permissible.

Sabr (Patience): Remember, we believe that this isn't the last time we will see our loved ones as we will re-join them in the hereafter. Anas b. Malik reported that Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) came to a woman who had been weeping for her (dead) child, and said to her: Fear Allah and show endurance (as encouraging words). She (not recognising him) said: You have not been afflicted as I have been. When he (the Prophet ﷺ) had departed, it was said to her that he was the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), she was mortally shocked. She came to his door and she did not find doorkeepers at his door (as was the practice of influential people). She said: Messenger of Allah. I did not recognise you. He ﷺ said: Endurance is to be shown at the first blow (instance).

As the famous Khaleefah (caliph) of Islam, the cousin of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, Ali Ibn Abi Taalib would say, "whether the one going through difficulty practices patience or not, this will not remove the difficulty from his/her life but the one who chooses to be patient and awaits reward from Allah will have a more pleasant experience and also gain reward from it."

It was narrated from Abu Umamah that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

"Allah says: 'O son of Adam! If you are patient and seek reward at the moment of first shock, I will not approve of any reward for you less than Paradise.'" (Ibn Majah)

Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported:

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "Allah, the Exalted, says: 'I have no reward other than Jannah for a believing slave of Mine who remains patient for My sake when I take away his beloved one from among the inhabitants of the world'. (Bukhari)

Take Heed from the opportunity

If someone close to you passes away, take heed from this and start preparing for your journey from this world to the hereafter. The date, time, age and location of your death is not known and could be any second. Imam Bukhari says,

"اغتنم في الفراغ فضل ركوع فعسى أن يكون موتك بغتة كم صحيح رأيت من غير سقم ذهب نفسه الصحيحة فلتة"

"Take advantage of your free time by acquiring the virtue of Ruku i.e praying Salah, it is very possible your death reaches you suddenly. How many people have you witnessed without any illness, suddenly their healthy souls departed from this world."

"We believe that this isn't the last time we will see our loved ones as we will re-join them in the hereafter."





My experience as a speaker for the MEngN careers event for the Engineering and Transport sector was an enjoyable one. As the only speaker currently in university, I found the experience vital as most of the participants in the attendance were young teenagers on the brink of choosing their A-Levels. Having my first year at university being general engineering, I had a little taste in the different engineering streams, on which I could give advice on what to expect for most of the major disciplines of engineering.

I felt the overall careers event was successful as the different speakers were all in different stages in their engineering career. I was the only student, so I could give a good idea on which A-Levels to take that would be advantageous whilst as a university student. Moreover, Fahad Rage and Hussain Akhtar are two recent graduates who provided a good idea on the work life as young engineers. As well as this, Nasir Khan and Kamran Nawaz provided a respectable insight of the tasks and responsibilities of senior engineers in different parts of the globe.

Currently a Mechanical Engineering student, I myself found the experience extremely informative. It was extremely helpful to see working engineers who are ahead of me in their careers answer questions and explain how they work and what to expect. It was an absolute pleasure to be part of this event as I could learn from those ahead of me as well as give a good idea on the aspect of engineering from a student's point of view.

**To contribute to future newsletters,
please do not hesitate to contact us!**

To keep up engaging topics and articles for future newsletter issues, we need your help! The current plan for newsletter topics is as follows:

- trending industrial topics i.e. new technology or innovation
- specific experience you have had recently
- story of a successful Muslim engineer in the industry.



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