

Internship advice from an HR Manager

You recently graduated and are excited about taking up an internship with your ideal employer. After several applications, you finally get “the call”. You are over the moon at the thought of being a step closer to making your dreams alive but then the nerves start kicking in at the thought of the interview preparation and process.

Rene Van Deventer is the Human Resources Manager at Profibre Products. “I have always wanted to be of service to other people that is why I chose a career in Human Resources.

She stresses how important it is to prepare for the interview beforehand and conduct research about the company and the interviewer. For example, “Mr. X, I read on your linked-in profile (or the company profile) that you (or your company) are an expert at and I would be honored to learn those skills from you.” This would therefore impress the interviewer that you have taken the trouble to come well prepared to the interview.

However, the internship is a one year interview, advises Rene. “You have this one year to make an impression on your manager, make sure that at the end of this one year / six months, that he thinks he needs you, make yourself indispensable. Look for opportunities to solve problems, help out, show enthusiasm and above all; be honest, if you made a mistake, admit it, so that it can be fixed before it becomes a bigger problem. Don’t lie to cover it up.”

Profibre was established in 1990 as a closed corporation with an initial focus on diverse industrial products. The company developed a competence to produce unique customized solutions for customers in very diverse industrial spheres, from mining and construction through to port services and petro-chemical plants, to the automotive industry. They currently employ more 200 people and operates from a 10 000m² facility in New Germany, Pinetown, just 30 minutes from Durban.