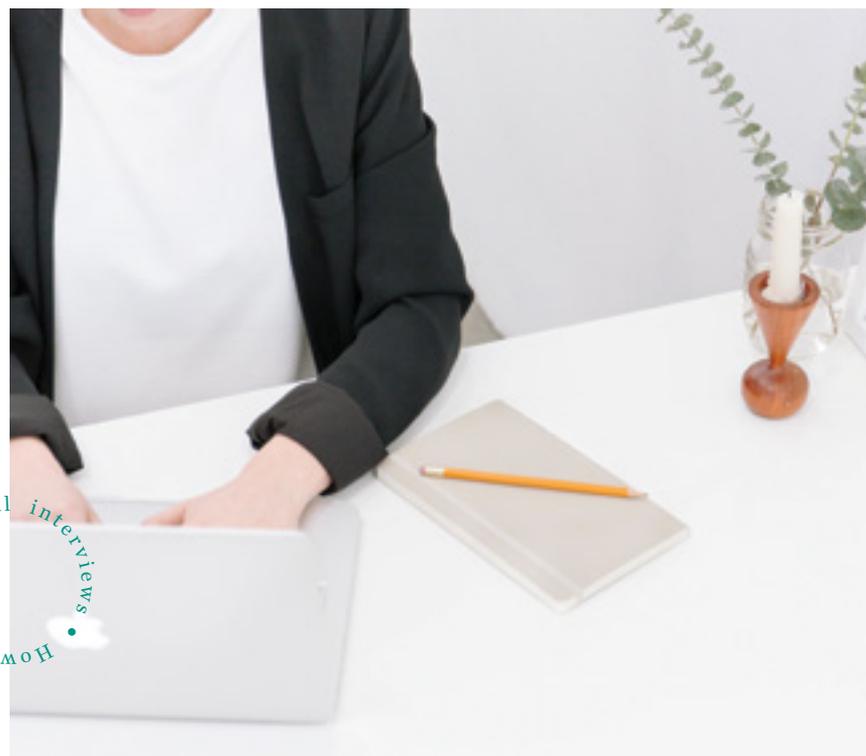


How to crack virtual interviews

Whether it's on Skype, FaceTime or Google Hangouts, more and more organisations are using virtual interviewing for first-round interviews.

Your preparation should be the same as a normal interview, but virtual interviewing has its own challenges. Careers Advisor, Ingrid van der Merwe, provides some tips.



Have you been granted an interview and the employer wants to interview you via Skype?

Now you can book a room free for a Skype interview at the Careers Service. Enquire at our front desk for booking details.

1 Username and profile pic

This may be the first contact that an organisation has with you, so make sure that your username and profile pic are appropriate and professional. Partyanimal5 doesn't give the best impression.

2 Check your connection

Make sure your internet connection is strong to prevent false starts.

3 Dress as you would for a face-to-face interview

You still need to look professional. No floppy T-shirts or just-out-the-shower look.

4 Background check

Unmade beds, dodgy posters or unwashed plates in a sink do not give the best impression. Make sure that what is behind you does not embarrass you.

5 Lighting

Check that your face is well illuminated and that a shadow is not cast in the wrong place.

6 Sound

Don't always rely on the on-board speaker. This can make you sound like you are in a cave. Additional speakers will help.

7 Supporting documents

Have your CV and application form at hand in case you have to refer to them.

8 Make eye contact

Remember to look at the camera and not at the screen. That way it will seem as though you are making eye contact and not looking down or to the side. This gives a much better impression.

9 Practise makes perfect

Skype friends and family beforehand to check that all is in order. Ask for their feedback on sound, background and their general impression.