
Mª Luisa Blanco Gómez
Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

Professional Applications in English for Architects: The interview is a guidebook that stands out as a practical reference tool to prepare students of architecture for their first job interview in English. It is divided into six sections which cover the most significant aspects of what candidates should take into account when preparing for an interview.

Introduction: A brief background of the pedagogical context as well as the methodology followed in this guidebook.

Working out skills: Interviews are held to gather information and this section will draft the most remarkable skills that an architect is asked for from a professional point of view. In order to fulfill the lack of students’ vocabulary, an extensive list of adjectives and exercises to improve this need has been provided. Moreover, attention has been paid to working out personal profiles and career objective focus depending on the position advertised.

Interview questions in architectural contexts: Taking into account the architectural market requirements, a list of the most frequent questions has been selected providing a sample of the most common situations and the answers that a standard student can produce. The exercises included are designed to be worked dynamically and the level of English in this guidebook (B2 upwards) is the English language level required in a professional context.

Useful bank of descriptors in real interviews: the activities and target premises in this work are sustained under the Academic and Professional European Language Portfolio (ACPECL Portfolio) (2009) a research labour awarded by the INAP (Instituto Nacional de la Administración Pública) in 2010. The selected questions and their answers to be practised in class or independently are matched with a recommended descriptor.

Body Language: Research has shown that our speech only counts 7% of the words we say, the rest corresponds to appearance and behaviour, body language or the way we speak. Body language is particularly important since it refers to the nonverbal signals that we use to communicate. As non-verbal communication is also part of the interview process, the students’ common lapses have been presented in a visual way.

Some specific bibliography has also been included at the end.

This is the definitive guidebook on how to perform confidently and successfully in a first interview in English. We trust it will serve as an invaluable reference for many students who want to achieve the best result since if they plan their interview and take all these considerations into account, they will become confident, which will lead them to success. If students follow the tips in this guidebook, they can convince the employer that they have a lot to offer.