

# **Christopher Ng**



Calgary, Canada

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My role post-graduation:
Associate at the Boston Consulting Group (BCG)



#### My academic background:

- London Business School, Masters in Management
- University of British Columbia, Bachelor of Science, Pharmacology



#### My practical experience:

- Medical research in oncology, medical ethics and obstructive sleep apnea
- Pharmaceuticals and health-tech internships
- Healthcare and payments
   consulting internships





Start early – consulting recruiting takes a lot of time, so it is much better to begin preparing earlier rather than later.



#### What was my application strategy?

- *Geography:* MBB in Canada, other consulting firms in the UK, pharmaceuticals no geographical preference.
- *Industry:* Strategy consulting was my top priority. If I was unable to land a role, I would have begun recruiting for pharmaceuticals due to this industry's recruitment cycle starting later in the school year.
- Types of roles: Full-time only

#### How was my interview experience?

- Consulting recruiting in Canada begins very early compared to the UK. In my year, many Canadian firms completed hiring by September, with some even hiring their first batch in June (15+ months before the new hire start date!). In comparison, most UK consulting firms began hiring in September and finished by December.
- Most firms I interviewed for had 2-3 rounds with interviewer seniority increasing the farther along I got in the process. Each round typically had 2-3 interviews, each lasting 45-90 minutes. This was broken down into ~25% fit and ~75% case interview.

### What myth I heard about applying was untrue?

 Coming from an unconventional background, I thought it would be much more difficult for me to land a role in consulting, but this couldn't be further from the truth. Many firms value people with different experiences and my unique profile allowed me to stand out in interviews compared to other candidates.

- In the summer before coming to LBS, the Career Centre set up a 1:1 meeting with me to review and fix my CV. This allowed me to save a lot of time during the year and begin applying early.
- LBS alumni were very willing to help review my application documents, conduct practice interviews and speak to me about the different firms I was interested in applying to.



# Vivian v. Oosten



### Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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My role post-graduation:Consultant at Oliver Wyman

#### My academic background:

- Masters in Analytics and Management at LBS
- Economics and Mathematics at University College Utrecht



### My practical experience:

- Data scientist at Stater
- Consulting Intern at Oliver Wyman Amsterdam
- Consultant at Oliver Wyman Amsterdam

### My #1 tip for applying:

 Treat your interviewer as a human being: show interest and make conversation.
 They also want to have a good time!



#### What was my application journey?

- My application journey was slightly alternative. I was invited to an Open House day through my university, where I did a case and learned a bit about the company. After the Open House, I was invited to a chat with one of the partners, which turned into two interviews. I got the offer for an internship right there!
- After the internship, I worked as a consultant for 6 months before taking a leave of absence.

#### How was my interview experience?

- I had no idea that case interviews were a thing when I went into the process, let alone that people prepared for this for weeks. I would have liked to know, but I was a lot less stressed like this.
- My interviews consisted of a non-business-related case interview and interview based on brain teasers. The puzzles were fun to do, and the partner mostly valued that I enjoyed working on them.

### What was working at Oliver Wyman like?

- I appreciated that as an intern I did essentially identical work to when I was a consultant. It truly showed me what the job would be like.
- Collaborating with smart people on challenging projects is for me the most important aspect of the job. Everyone is focused on learning and doing well, which is such a difference from LBS study groups.

# How has LBS better prepared me for my job?

- The LondonLab project is exactly a consulting project, and being a Team Lead for it has given me valuable insight into the job that my manager usually does. This will help me help them.
- Classes like Strategy and Accounting are giving me a better insight into business operations and the context of our work.



# Joao Pereira



Lisbon, Portugal



LinkedIn: Joao Pereira Email: jpereira.mfa2023@london.edu



### My role post-graduation:

- Business Analyst McKinsey
- Lisbon, Portugal



# My academic background:

- LBS, Masters in Financial
   Analysis
- Surrey University , Bachelor in Economics



# My practical experience:

- Business Analyst Kearney
- Economic Advisor UK
   Government
- Secondment Private Secretary to the Minister for Environment

# My #1 tip for applying:

Choose your case partners well. I would recommend a group of four early careers to keep pushing each other. I suggest including students with previous consulting backgrounds.



# What was my application strategy?

- Geography: Portugal
- Industry: Strategy Consulting
- Types of roles: Full time only

# How was my interview experience?

- Overall, the recruitment process was a pleasant yet intensive experience. As I was only applying to three companies, I wanted to improve my odds as much as possible.
- I spent a lot of time networking and ended up having referrals and case partners from all three. For each, I had either four or five case interviews, each about an hour and thirty minutes long, with associates, principals and partners.

# What myth I heard about applying was untrue?

• "All your answers need to be pure gold". Well, they should at least be silver. But remember that the answers you give are only part of the full picture. Your personality, the passion you show, and the questions you ask are just as important.

- The LBS community was determinant.
- My case partners were McKinsey MFA and MBA students.
- I got referrals to all MBBs via the LBS community.
- My application buddy at McKinsey was a MiM 2021
- I was also interviewed by LBS alumnis. This helped me build a connection from the start of the interview



# **Fangchen Wang**



Nanjing, China



### LinkedIn: Fangchen Wang

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#### My role post-graduation:

- Business Analyst Intern at Delta Partners
- Dubai, UAE



#### My academic background:

 LBS, Masters in Analytics and Management Nanjing University, Bachelor in Computer Science

#### My practical experience:

- Learning Enterprises, USA
- EUROUT, UK
- IBM, China
- Roland Berger, China



#### Don't be afraid to reach out to alumni for suggestions and mentorship



### What was my application strategy?

- Geography: Dubai, Shanghai, London
- Industry: strategy consulting (TMT), VC, tech
- Types of roles : Business Analyst, Data Scientist, Analyst, Product Manager, Data Engineer, etc.

#### How was my interview experience?

- Generally, I find the interview process less difficult than I had expected.
- There were mainly three types of interviews :
  - Tech: analytics, statistics, SQL, coding, etc.
  - **Case:** problem-solving exercise for candidates to solve a hypothetical business scenario
  - Fit: assessment of candidates' alignment with a company's culture, values, and expectations
- In retrospect, I would have liked to prepare tech part of the interview process more

#### What myth I heard about applying was untrue?

- A common myth is that only **extroverts** can excel in consulting.
- While communication skills matter, consulting firms do value candidates with analytical, problem-solving, and listening skills, regardless of their introverted or extroverted nature.

- **Career Services:** Personalized guidance, resume reviews, mock interviews, etc.
- **Consulting Club:** Access to case workshops, networking events, and mentorship.
- Alumni Network: The extensive LBS alumni network connected me with professionals in top consulting firms, enabling me to learn from their experiences and receive valuable advice on acing interviews and navigating the consulting world.



# **Janis Wolfisberg**



Zurich, Switzerland



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### My role post-graduation:

- Intern at Oliver Wyman
- Dubai, UAE



### My academic background:

- LBS, Global Masters in Management
- Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Bachelor in International Management

### My practical experience:

- Deloitte, Switzerland
- PwC, Switzerland
- HSBC, Switzerland
- UBS, Switzerland



 Put in a lot of preparation for fit interviews – you have to be able to tell your story well!



### What was my application strategy?

- *Geography:* Dubai & Zurich for Strategy Consulting, London for Banking & Finance
- *Industry:* Strategy Consulting as a first priority, and IB/PE roles as a second priority
- *Types of roles:* Internship roles only as I am completing a double degree program

### How was my interview experience?

- I found that the interview difficulty and structure differed strongly between firms, even among MBBs and T2 firms
- Case interviews were less structured than I expected, and a lot of cases consisted of brainteasers, in which candidates are required to think out-of-the-box
- Fit interviews were as expected in interviews that consisted of Fit + Case, but slightly harder than expected if a full interview was only dedicated to fit

### What myth I heard about applying was untrue?

- Many people told me it's virtually impossible to get into some firms/offices without having personal connections and an extensive network
- While networking can be beneficial in some cases, the network aspect is less important in consulting applications than in other industries (e.g., IB)

- The career services/career portal can help you in several aspects. In my case, it helped me with reviewing my cover letters and preparing for case interviews
- The Consulting Club and Impact Consulting Club offer different opportunities to get preparation resources and potentially participate in real-life pro-bono consulting projects
- The LBS alumni network helped me a lot when I reached out to people on LinkedIn and scheduled some coffee chats



# Drishti Hoskote



Bangalore, India



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#### My role post-graduation:

Pricing Analyst at Pearson Ham



### My academic background:

- Masters in Analytics & Management at LBS
- Undergraduate Degree in Computer Science at PES University, Bangalore



### My practical experience:

- Bosch Global Software
   Technologies
- Philips Healthcare
- Athena Mentorship

### My #1 tip for applying:

Smile and have a conversation. The interviewers want to know how you think, it's okay if you get the answers wrong, as long as your approach is right.



# What was my application strategy?

- Geography: London
- Industry: Strategy Consulting, Product Management
- *Types of roles:* Full Time Strategy, Business Analyst, Product Roles

### How was my Interview Experience?

- I had no idea what case interviews were before I started preparing for them (about 10 days before my interview).
- The interview was a lot smoother than I expected. The interviewers were extremely friendly, they even guided me through the case.
- I had 3 interviews, 2 were case studies and fit, the third was only fit. From my experience, most companies have at least 2-3 case interview rounds. Each interview was about 45 minutes – 15 minutes fit and 30 minutes case

# What myth I heard about applying was untrue?

 I thought that coming from a non-business background with 0 full time experience would be a disadvantage for me. But I think that streamlining my internship experiences into learnings that I can use in Consulting helped me boost my application further. Motivation and fit also formed a large part of my application, even if you are good at cases, fit can be a make or break.

# How has LBS helped me get into consulting?

 The LBS Career center helped have my CV and Cover Letter ready before the application season. The oneon-one meetings were really beneficial in fine-tuning the two. As a result, I was prepared when the applications opened and could concentrate more on the tests and practicing for case interviews.



# Niklas Gaertner



Frankfurt, Germany



#### LinkedIn: <u>Niklas Gärtner</u> ngaertner.mam2023@london. <u>edu</u>

#### My role post-graduation:

 Associate Consultant at Bain & Company



### My academic background:

- Masters in Analytics & Management at LBS
- Undergraduate Degree in Business Administration at University of Mannheim

### My practical experience:

- Bain & Company
- FC Bayern München
- Audi
- Deutsche Telekom
- PwC & KPMG

# My #1 tip for applying:

 Practice telling personal stories! Prepare 3 stories about past experiences that you can describe various situations, e.g., "tell me of a time you showed leadership skills"



# How did I get my job?

- I decided to do a gap year after my undergraduate degree. My main reason was that I didn't want to work in an industry that I didn't personally experience before as I was unsure what I liked
- I then got accepted in a program organized by Bain which included 4 internships at Bain, FC Bayern München, Audi, & Deutsche Telekom
- I luckily received an offer after my Bain internship.

### How did I prepare for my interviews?

- I didn't really have casing experience before applying to the Bain internship program.
- To start, I read books about casing, e.g., Case in Point by Marc Cosentino. These books started with theory and then included practice cases.
- For these practice cases, I reached out to a wide array of people. After having interviewed with 5-10 people, I mainly worked on my weaknesses myself and only did a few cases with others.
- To me, it was extremely helpful to reflect on every case I did with others. For each case, I wrote a page in a book summarizing what I did well and what I can improve.

### How was my interview experience?

- My interview consisted of 2 cases and 1 personal fit.
- For the personal fit interview, it really helped to ask friends for questions they would ask and prepare answers to them. I could then use this wide array of possible answers to respond to questions intended to catch people unprepared.
- The cases included a lot of Math and it was important to be very diligent here and not speak before I was very sure of an answer.

# How have I incorporated my consulting interest in my LBS application?

 I focused the career part of my application heavily on my consulting interest. I specifically outlined how I planned to get a job in consulting and what I learned through my previous consulting experience.