The University of Texas at Austin
Career Services
Jackson School of Geosciences

INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWING

Informational interviewing is simply talking with someone who is presently working in a career that interests you. One of the best ways to find someone to interview is to ask friends, family, professors, alumni and advisors if they know people working in the fields that you would like to explore; this is called growing your professional network.

1. Can you talk about your academic background and what initially sparked your interest in earth, geosciences and/or environmental sciences?
2. What specific aspect of earth, geosciences and/ or environmental sciences fascinates you the most?
3. How do you stay updated with the latest advancements and discoveries in the field of earth, geosciences and environmental sciences?
4. Could you recommend any relevant research projects or classes a students can take while at JSG?
5. In your opinion, what are some of the most pressing environmental and/ or geological challenges that your career field is currently facing?
6. How do you go about solving complex scientific problems at you work?
7. How do you see technology impacting the future of earth, geosciences and environmental sciences?
8. How much of your work is done collaboratively with a team to achieve a common goal? How much of your work is done independently?
9. Earth, geosciences and environmental sciences often involve fieldwork in remote or challenging environments. How do you balance travel, fieldwork and office work?
10. What role do you think careers in earth, geosciences and environmental sciences play in addressing issues related to climate change and natural disasters?
11. How do you analyze data to draw conclusions or make recommendations? What tools or software do you use, and what was the outcome?
12. How do you prioritize and manage your time when working on multiple projects simultaneously?
13. These sciences encompass various disciplines such as geology, hydrology, and atmospheric sciences. Which specific subfield interests you the most?
14. Communication skills are crucial in these fields, especially when presenting findings or collaborating with stakeholders. How do you prefer to communicate in your work and on your projects?
15. Have you encountered ethical considerations in your work? How did you navigate these challenges?
16. What are some of your favorite aspects of the work you do at your job?
17. How do you think earth, geosciences and environmental sciences contribute to sustainable development practices, both locally and globally?
18. These fields often involve working with large datasets. What type of data analysis and interpretation do you do?
19. How can I as a current student stand out in (field you are pursing)?
20. What do you think are some of the most emerging issues for careers in the geosciences and environmental sciences in the future?

More about informational interviewing in general **here.**