

START YOUR CAREER AT A STARTUP WITH VFA

*Everything you need to
know to apply to the*

Class of 2021

VENTURE
FOR AMERICA

Video Interview

The video interview is an opportunity for us to get to know you and understand how you might operate in an entrepreneurial work environment. Over the course of about half an hour, you'll chat with a Venture For America Team member, Fellow, or Alum. Be ready to discuss your interest in the fellowship program, experiences from your past, and how you might address potential work challenges in the future.

Treat the video interview like a real interview, because it is. We take this seriously and so should you.

Video Interview Video Tips

ACTION

Frame your candidacy.

Common Questions:

1. Why do you want this opportunity?
2. Tell me about yourself.

Reflect about what makes you excited about VFA and why it makes sense for your journey. Each applicant has a unique path to entrepreneurship, and we want to hear yours. Be ready to tell us about how you would contribute to our mission.

Use concrete examples.

Common Questions:

1. Tell me about a time that you started something new.
2. Tell me about why you're interested in our mission.

Give us a better idea of your past experiences and impact by using concrete examples in your responses. Rather than saying that you've always been entrepreneurial, give us a specific example of a moment that solidified your interest in startups.

Be ready to highlight growth and impact.

Common Questions:

1. Tell me about a time that you accomplished something in a non-academic setting and how you did that.
2. Tell me about the last time you failed at something

Think about where you've shown the most growth in professional or extra-curricular settings. Jot down how you've made an impact on teams and how you did it so that you're ready to share about them. Use numbers and concrete examples to illustrate growth and impact.

EXAMPLES & TIPS

"I fell in love with startups last year when I attended University of Michigan and I did a student pitch competition. I saw how entrepreneurship could be a way of solving problems and creating opportunities for others especially within cities like Baltimore and Cleveland."

"My friends and I saw an opportunity to fill the gap for personal protective equipment, so we borrowed a sewing machine and made more than 50 masks. We sold them to our community and donated a portion of our revenue to organizations in need. This experience made me really excited about the potential of entrepreneurship."

"As the lead organizer of a campus-wide food festival, I got a record 500+ people to attend by sourcing a diversity of local vendors and launching a popular TikTok campaign."

"In my junior year summer internship, I was tasked with sourcing 50 potential new customers. By the end of the internship I only sourced 23 clients. I asked my manager for feedback, and she recommended that I set up some benchmarks and ask for help in the future if I know I'm off-track. When I returned the next summer, I made sure to track my progress weekly and ask for help when I needed it."

Video Interview

Video Interview Video Tips (cont.)

ACTION

Reflect about your past experiences.

Common Questions:

1. Tell me about a time you had to overcome a challenge.
2. Tell me about a time you had to navigate conflict with a colleague or peer.

Be mindful of the times you had to demonstrate grit in challenging situations. How did you do it? What did you learn? Avoid talking too much about the challenge so that you have less time to talk about your response to it.

Continue doing research.

Make sure you can confidently answer these questions:

What is VFA? How does the fellowship program work? What is VFA's mission? If there are lingering questions, prepare some questions to ask at the end of the interview. We know our program has many pieces, and our interviewers are prepared to answer them.

EXAMPLES & TIPS

"I had a challenge of recruiting 20 new members for my student organization. I stood in front of our dining hall to get people to sign up, secured funding for food at our introductory meetings, and shared with people the impact they could have by joining us. We were able to get 40 people to join!"

"At my last summer internship, I had to work closely with another intern to help organize an event to celebrate the anniversary of our company. We clashed about which venue would make the most sense. I decided to hear her perspective and what she thought was ideal. In the end, we chose a venue that met our company's needs and our own personal tastes."

Sample questions to ask at the end of your interview:

- What part of VFA's mission resonates most with you?
- Could you tell me more about how VFA supports Fellows in starting companies?
- What is the Match experience like?
- What is Training Camp like?

Did you...

- Test your connection and confirm your video chat link with your interviewer?
- Prepare to dress smart casual (e.g. blouse, button down, polo etc.)? While we won't be assessing you on what you are wearing, it is important to put your best foot forward.
- Pick a quiet place where you won't be disturbed? We acknowledge that your interviewing environment may be busy so if you can't find a quiet spot, don't worry!
- Create a virtual or physical background to minimize distractions?
- Practice general interview questions?
- Think of questions you have?