

What to stress in a Bioinformatics job interview

Bioinformatics is nowadays important in Biotech, Pharma, hospitals, research Institutes such as EBI and Sanger in Hinxton and BBSRC Babraham Institute in Cambridge, Crick Institute in London, etc.

A Cambridge graduate in computer science has acquired many many skills useful in today Bioinformatics.

First of all it is important to be aware that people in working environments are very specialised; so even doctors or biologists do not know all the field of medicine or biology; therefore it is constructive to avoid the feeling of not being able to learn some medical or biological knowledge when asked.

Important skills:

Bioinformatics is nowadays bridged with machine learning.

Software needs to be developed for new types of data so the knowledge of the algorithms will allow a better understanding of the best way to achieve data integration.

Bioinformatics needs workflow/pipelines across many operating systems and platforms. The capacity to develop a vision of the entire IT system is crucial.

Currently used software is based on a variety of programming languages: C/C++, Java, Perl, python, ect. The skill of putting together code is very important.

Good practice in writing code that could be reused, easy to maintain and serve as a module for more complex procedures is an important aspect.

Disciplines that are **essential** in nowadays Bioinformatics: machine learning, algorithms, programming languages, logic, NLP, security, database, networks, human computer interaction.