Jeff's FAQ + Tips

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Hello!

My name is Jeff Nguyen! I work as a University Recruiter @ Amazon where I recruit interns and new grads. I am also the Founder @ BobaTalks, a non profit community where we mentor students through the ambiguities of their early career!

I have been working as a recruiter for close to 5 years and have been in the Early Career Space for just as long. In that time, I've mentored just shy of 4,000+ students with their careers, their identities, their mental health, their lives, and everything in between. My mentorship is less about career development and more about supporting students about the hard stuff.

I like to think of myself as a concerned and older uncle/cousin figure for students, as I quite enjoy helping students as much as possible!

Unfortunately due to the *very high volume* of messages/requests that come my way, it is not feasible to answer them all individually! Since there is a bit of repetitiveness, I'm going to answer the most frequently asked questions here.

If you are reading this FAQ sheet, your questions might be answered here! These questions are going to be sorted by Amazon, BobaTalks, and Jeff Questions (in that order). Please note everything on this document is (more or less) of personal opinion and does not reflect the view of my employer or BobaTalks.

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I hope this helps but if it doesn't, please feel free to join the **BobaTalks Discord Community!**

Amazon FAQ

☕ **What do you recruit for specifically? Can you help recruit me for something specific?**

🌱 I likely won't be recruiting students until I'm back from Japan 😕

☕ **Can you help me with finding a Software Engineering Internship at Amazon?**

🌱 You do not need my help finding an internship because you can find all available internships on the Amazon University jobs page! This would also include internships and new grad roles. If the listing is up, you are more than welcome to apply into it.

☕ **I want to know the recruiter for an internship or role. Can you tell me who they are?**

🌱 Unfortunatley, I do not disclose the identity of the recruiters for internships as a professional courtesy for their privacy and bandwidth.

☕ **Can I contact you on your personal email, number, or on Discord?**

🌱 In solidarity with work life balance, I do not do any Amazon related work on my personal email or number and students should not be soliciting personal contact! My Discord is strictly for my personal and BobaTalks use.

☕ **Would you be open to a professional coffee chat so I can learn more about Amazon recruiting and their process, and what they look for?**

🌱 I love coffee chats and as a fun fact, there isn't a person on this planet that has taken more coffee chats than I have with students in these last five years ^__^ ! With that said, I now only take coffee chats *out of recruiting season*, not during the actual recruiting season as taking coffee chats during recruiting season tends to feel a bit transactional.

☕ **You suck! Can you at least help me learn more about the Amazon Recruiting process?**

🌱 I do suck, but I try my best! After your application is submitted, it will be reviewed by a team of recruiters and sourcers. If your application is selected to move forward, you will be contacted by email.

☕ **Do you have any tips on how to prepare for my behavioral interview with Amazon as a student pursuing Software Engineering?**

🌱 Amazon prides itself on valuing leadership principles. Many students typically tend to overlook the importance of these principles and resort to vibe-checking these out but they matter greatly. I highly recommend studying up on them! I am a fan of either the STAR or CARL format for responding to behavioral questions, I'm biased towards the latter for interns.

☕ **Do you have any tips on how to prepare for my technical interview with Amazon as a student pursuing Software Engineering?**

🌱 While I do agree that Leetcoding is a solid way for most students to prepare for their online assessment(s) or their technical interview, I think there are more effective ways! I encourage learning and rationalizing data structures, and I think Sean Prashad's Leetcode Set of Patterns is the best set for this. If you are someone who struggles with verbally structuring their answers, then I'd recommend the REACTO framework and mock interviews.

☕ **I've applied to many roles, but I haven't heard back yet but I want to know the status of my application.**

🌱 Many roles at Amazon typically have very high volume! For the most up to date status of your application, always rely on your candidate portal. If your application is selected to move forward, the portal would update *or* someone would reach out to you (typically, a recruiter).

☕ **I am interested in Amazon sponsoring my event or speaking at my school!**

🌱 Feel free to reach out! I will triage appropriately. Please note that if you're looking for **me** to specifically attend an event on behalf of Amazon, I'm happy to be considered but I try not to travel too often as I am a single father … .of two anxious puppies.

☕ **I am a student that wants to connect with you in regards to Amazon but you haven't responded to my connection request or my message yet.**

🌱 My LinkedIn is my personal social media, and I use it for personal use! It is set up in such a way where any student can reach out to me using their LinkedIn Messages but due to the large volume of requests that I get, I respond when I have bandwidth! In regards to connections, I only have < 1,000 connections left so I try to reserve these for more IRL connections or students/people that I know now moving forward.

☕ **Hey Jeff! I got a return offer for Amazon but I haven't heard back yet. Can you help?**

🌱 I am so proud of you! Unfortunately, I'm not a Return Offer Recruiter so I am not heavily involved with return offers for the most part.

BobaTalks FAQ

☕ **What is BobaTalks exactly?**

🌱 We're a community of people that support students through advice and mentorship :)

☕ **Is BobaTalks really free?**

🌱 Of course! I do not believe in monetizing students.

☕ **How do I become a mentor at BobaTalks?**

🌱 Those who have crossed their one year milestone in their end game career are more than welcome to mentor at BobaTalks! You can sign up with this **link**. Please note that a select group of students in our community reviews our mentor applications.

☕ **Could you speak at our club / school?**

🌱 Absolutely! If it's strictly in my capacity as myself or BobaTalks, I'm happy to visit/attend events with a soft preference for virtual events and exceptions of certain schools in my locale.

☕ **I'm unable to join your BobaTalks Community Server - what's going on?**

🌱 You can join our server with this **link** here - if your account has been banned due to no-shows, from inappropriate behavior, or is flagged as spam by Discord, your account will not be able to join our Discord Community.

☕ **I have so many more questions!**

🌱 You can find more **BobaTalks FAQ** here :)

☕ **I heard you're no longer a non profit!**

🌱 Yup! I've happily gotten rid of the non profit status.

Jeff FAQ

☕ **I see you all over my LinkedIn page! Are you a content creator or an influencer?**

🌱 Nope! I believe that influencing and content creation are skills/lifestyles that aren't exactly for me. I am someone that tends to yap a lot and I advocate for a lot of students. I know that my LinkedIn might look a little loud, but I don't take it seriously.

☕ **I feel like so many students know you - are you famous or something? Why?**

🌱 Between the years of 2020 and 2025, I've mentored close to 4,000 students with BobaTalks hovering around 35,000+ students globally. I also do not monetize and do not market, which I think helps. Tldr, students trust me and I'd like to say I've earned it.

☕ **Could we ever meet to chat about life and stuff?**

🌱 Of course! You can usually find me on the BobaTalks Discord or scootering around Seattle. Feel free to say hi.

☕ **Could you endorse our product or share our posts? We can pay you~!**

🌱 One of the nice things about not being a creator or influencer is that I don't take brand deals that I do not believe in and I don't share posts that I don't believe in! If I think it's cool, I'll engage with it. I appreciate the offer but I will pass!

☕ **I noticed a lot of LinkedIn influencers and content creators are mutuals with you!**

🌱 I think a small chunk of early career creators are lovely folks I've had the chance to meet over the last few years and I'm sure that we're mutuals with a bunch of people :)

☕ **I want to interview you for our podcast!**

🌱 lmao i hate talking

☕ **Would you be down to visit our club/campus for our event/club? We'd love to have you!**

🌱 Yes! My capacity to travel/speak on behalf of myself/BobaTalks is much more feasible. Here is a table of the upcoming events that I believe I'm involved in for the upcoming year or want to do.

☕ **Do you pay for your own travels and stuff?**

🌱 Yup! For the most part, my ability to travel is impacted by my bandwidth and budget.

Date	Name Of Event	School/Org
October 3rd 2025	Japanese Student Association	Seattle Central College
November 15th - 17th	Keynote Speaker @ HackCamp	University of British Columbia
January 17th - 18th	Visiting nwHacks	University of British Columbia
January 20th	Guest Speaker @ ???	University of Chicago
March 7th – 8th	Visiting cmd + f	University of British Columbia

☕ **I want to learn more about your career and story! Can you tell me more about it?**

🌱 My life isn't something I would want students to re-emulate! Much of it was due to luck and happenstance but if you'd like to learn a little bit about it, I'm happy to share with you my story at a much, much later date :)

List Of (Actually) Good Resources

Job Boards

- Cvrve
- Simplify + Pitt CSC
- JobPulse

Tech Prep

- Sean Prashad's Pattern Set
- Blind 75 (Neetcode)
- REACTO (Interviewer Framework)

Learning & Development (SWE)

- Codex.IO
- Roadmaps
- Udemy

Communities

- Girls Who Code
- Rewriting The Code
- ColorStack
- InternShip (f/o Manny Duenas)

Newsletters

- InternInsider
- CareerNow

Resume Stuff

- Resume.lol
- Resumes.fyi
- Find A Roommate (Tech Roomie)

Dear Students,

If you happen to have read this entire FAQ, then I'm going to write this letter to you because I don't think an FAQ will do a good job of making you feel better about recruiting.

Regardless of how well you do on your OA or interview, please believe me when I say that there is so much more to being able to program and build, than your performance with assessments and tests.

There doesn't exist a single person in tech who hasn't struggled with an OA before, failed a couple of interviews, or crashed out from all the LeetCode prep and mock interviews before recruiting season. For so many, it can be a pretty brutal grind. And that's okay.

Every person in corporate tech has been exactly where you are right now - trying their best to do what they can. Starting at 0. Trying to make something out of it. It is completely normal and commonplace to struggle, to fail a couple of interviews, and not to do well here and there.

You're all doing all of this while managing work, managing school, managing health, relationships, family, and everything else in between. It is **a lot** to deal with.

My friends often say "This is their first time going through life - so go easy on them". And that applies here - you're doing ***all of this*** for the first time.

So *please please please* go easy on yourself with the prep and with the results of the interview, no matter what they might be. Know that whatever outcome you might hear, that does **not** define you.

Good or bad - you are more than just a result of a test.

Rooting for you always,

Jeff Nguyen