Recruiting Resources and Guidelines

The policies below have been developed to provide a fair recruiting process for all students, employers, and University of South Carolina (USC) personnel. See exceptions for international recruiters and students abroad.

Invitations to Interview

Employers may extend invitations to interview Darla Moore School of Business (DMSB) students who have applied for job opportunities on their own websites or posted in HandShake, or who have completed an internship within the employer’s organization. Employers will follow on-campus interview procedures as outlined in HandShake, and are requested to provide at least 48 hours advance notice to students prior to remote interviews via telephone, Skype, online video, or otherwise.

Interview Eligibility and Location

Only current DMSB students who are eligible to use the HandShake job posting system may be interviewed in our facility. Undergraduate and graduate students attending DMSB may not be interviewed outside of a USC facility unless the interview is an official, employment-specific additional round interview conducted on-site at an Employer’s facility or at a pre-arranged location with prior notification to, and agreement with, DMSB’s Office of Career Management (OCM). Most interviews will be at DMSB itself, but due to space constraints on certain days, interviews may also be held at the USC Career Center in the Thomas Cooper Library, or at other locations to be communicated in advance. Interviews associated with any BusinessEXPO event will be hosted at the event venue for a nominal fee. Please note that video interviews can be coordinated through the OCM with a minimum of 72 hours notice.

Alternates

We recommend that you select several alternate invitations for each interview schedule. If your preselected candidates do not accept your invitation to interview or if they drop out due to conflicts, their slots can be filled by the alternates you have selected.

Cancelling an Interview Schedule

Your Interview Schedule will be available after the final day that students are allowed to select an interview slot in HandShake. Since schedules are subject to last-minute changes, interviewers should refer to the Final Schedule in Handshake and bring a copy for their use while on campus. If you must cancel an interview schedule after students have accepted your invitation to interview, please notify your contact within the USC Career Center and contact the students on your schedule directly, by email and/or telephone.

Second-Round Interviews

On a space-available basis, we may be able to accommodate your second-round interviews on campus. Contact the USC Career Center to schedule the date and number of rooms needed. It is the employer’s
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responsibility to invite students and manage the schedule for second or final-round interviews conducted off-campus. To avoid potential time conflicts, please provide information regarding your second-round process so students can plan accordingly.

If you are hosting second or third-round interviews at another location, please inform the students of the dates and the locations as soon as that information is confirmed. We strongly recommend that you provide at least one alternate date for students.

Class Attendance

It is highly recommended that students not miss class or other academic commitments due to interviews, recruiting events or travel related to those events. Employers cannot require a student to interview at a time that conflicts with his or her individual academic schedule as a condition of his or her employment candidacy.

DMSB’s OCM highly recommends that employers schedule interviews, recruiting events or travel related to those events outside of mid-term and final exam periods. (Midterm - October 15, 2018: Final Exams - December 7-17, 2018: Midterm – March 4, 2019: Final Exams – April 30 – May 11, 2019)

Reimbursement

Typically, employers will reimburse students for travel-related expenses for second and final-round interviews. Students will be advised to discuss interview travel reimbursement with each individual Employer.

Work Authorization

When companies recruit on-site or create a job posting in HandShake, postings will allow any student currently enrolled on the USC Columbia campus to apply. The posting should include information in the position description regarding all applicable qualifications including work authorization requirements, to ensure that students understand any constraints that may be placed on positions. The DMSB has a significant number of international students and if work authorization requirements are not specified, interview schedules will be available to both domestic and international students.

Inclement Weather Policy

If the University of South Carolina activates the inclement weather policy, classes may be delayed or cancelled, which will impact the day’s interview schedules. If USC closes, there will be no on-campus interviews or other recruiting events due to safety reasons. If the University closes, we will assist in making alternate arrangements, such as rescheduling interviews or setting up phone or virtual interviews at the same scheduled time and date.

If a student is unable to travel to the interview site due to weather conditions, we ask that companies be willing to make alternate arrangements for that student, such as an alternate time or virtual interview by phone or Skype.
If your recruiters are traveling and find that they are unable to get to campus, please call DMSB and the USC Career Center as soon as possible. We will help you reschedule your interviews and communicate changes to the students on the interview schedule.

**Offers**

Making an offer to a student represents a significant commitment by the Employer and the student. To balance the needs of students and recruiters, the following guidelines are in place for offers to all students.

**Offer Consideration Time**

So that students may make a fully informed and comprehensive decision, employers are encouraged to give students a reasonable period of time to consider both full-time and internship offers. That generally means until October 31, or four weeks, whichever is later, unless an alternative time frame is agreed upon by both parties. The beginning of the offer period coincides with the date of the written offer. Suggested timelines do not preclude longer periods for considering an offer. It is important that both the employer and student keep an open line of communication throughout the interview and job offer process. We request that companies inform students of their status within two weeks following interviews, when possible, even if no final decisions has been made regarding the position. We also ask that you provide an update to your primary contact at DMSB regarding all extended offer information.

**Exploding Offers**

An “exploding offer” is defined as giving a candidate an unreasonably short time to accept an offer before the offer is revoked. Issuing an exploding offer is prohibited (See previous paragraph for the DMSB policy on offer timing). If an employer believes a student is taking an unreasonably long time to respond to an offer, please contact DMSB’s OCM so the issue may be addressed with the student.

**Withdrawing an Offer**

If an employer must withdraw an offer, the employer should immediately contact DMSB’s Director of the Office of Career Management, Georgia Holmes Doran, at Georgia.doran@moore.sc.edu. This is a serious matter that can significantly harm an employer’s reputation and its subsequent ability to recruit students.

Similarly, if a student reneges after accepting a written offer of employment, the employer should notify the Director of the OCM who will thoroughly review the situation and take appropriate action within USC and DMSB guidelines. The DMSB considers reneging on an accepted offer to be unethical behavior. To contact DMSB’s OCM, on such a matter, please telephone during normal business hours, +1 (803) 777-0149.
Exceptions to Recruiting Guidelines for International Recruiters

Due to constraints of travel, budget, time zones and other factors, companies based outside the United States may interview and make offers to students outside of our regular recruiting calendar and locations, provided that the “spirit” of these recruiting policies is respected.

Failing to Follow DMSB’s Recruiting Guidelines

In an effort to balance the needs of students and recruiters, DMSB has established a full disclosure policy with respect to adverse actions taken by employers, for example, withdrawing an accepted offer or extending an exploding offer. Our objective is to provide information that may be relevant to students when they are planning their search activities and making employment decisions. However, DMSB has decided against any sanctions, recognizing that penalizing employers would reduce potentially valuable employment opportunities for current and future students and might impact alumni who are employed by these firms.

This is consistent with DMSB efforts to support our students in the job search process. When students are informed that a firm did not honor DMSB recruiting guidelines, students can take that information and incorporate it into their decision-making process.

When informed about adverse recruiting actions, DMSB will communicate with the employer about a student’s report of adverse actions, assess facts from both perspectives, and attempt to resolve open issues when possible. When adverse actions are reported by students, DMSB tries to work with employers and students to reach a mutually satisfactory solution. We ask that companies who plan to take an adverse action first inform DMSB in order to minimize consequences for our students. Having an open conversation about such actions has served to maintain goodwill among all parties. Furthermore, we request that employers notify DMSB if they learn that a student may have accepted more than one job offer, or who is continuing to search for a position after accepting a written offer. Such student behavior is unethical and violates DMSB’s Student Code of Conduct.

Grade Disclosure

If you require student transcripts, please notify the student in advance, so he or she can authorize a release by the University registrar of an official transcript, or provide you with an unofficial transcript. The University of South Carolina cannot disclose grades or other student information in consideration of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Nondiscrimination

The University of South Carolina makes its facilities and services available only to employers who do not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, marital status, age, national origin, military service or disability. Any employer who makes use of University facilities to interview students agrees to meet in good faith with any student who has been scheduled for an interview and who meets the employer’s legitimate employment qualifications for the posted position.
Policy on Unlawful Discrimination and Harassment

The University of South Carolina is committed to providing a working and learning environment free from unlawful discrimination and harassment. Consistent with this commitment and with applicable federal, state and local laws, it is the policy of USC, as both an educational institution and an employer, to prohibit unlawful discrimination and harassment and to provide students, faculty and staff who believe that they may be the victims of either with mechanisms for seeking redress. We recommend that all students, alumni, vendors and employers who are engaged in activities with DMSB, review all USC official policies.