

# Informational Interviews

## Email to Faculty Template (sample)

Dear... :

*My name is [---], and I am a summer research intern for the Cancer Prevention Research Training Program directed by Dr. Shine Chang and a [recent ABC University in St. Louis graduate]. I'm being mentored by Dr. [XYZ].*

*To make the most of my experience here this summer, I would like to learn a bit about how and why you decided to specialize in [Interventional Radiology], what a typical day looks like for you, and more about your research in [MR-guided laser ablation]. I am seriously considering a career in [radiology both as a diagnostic tool and as a treatment option for cancer] and your perspectives would be very helpful to me in making important career decisions.*

*If possible, I would like to set up an informational interview meeting with you of no more than 20 minutes, at your convenience. I will be happy to work with your administrative assistant to find a time before the summer session ends on [August 9].*

*Thank you in advance for considering my request. I look forward to hearing from you.*

*[Add your signature block here]*

## Interview Questions (sample)

- What attracted you to this field/job?
- What preparation and education do you need?
- How did you get started?
- What do you like most about this field/job?
- What do you like least?
- What is the usual lifetime trajectory of this job?
- What is most rewarding about this field/job?
- What do you have to sacrifice for this job?
- What kinds of people do well in this field/job? What skills are most important?
- What new areas are opening up in this field? Is the field expanding?
- What's a typical day for you?
- Are there work/life balance issues in this job? How do you handle them?

