

Prospective PhD students: Need Help Finding a Supervisor?

Use the checklist below to assist you in your search for a supervisor in our graduate studies program.

1. Get to know our Research Faculty – Review our [researcher profiles](#). Understanding who might be a good fit for you is a key first step in the process!
2. Once you have identified potential fits from our researcher profiles page, examine some of their recent research to identify their areas of interest and expertise. This will help you to determine how they might support your own program of growth. Read through prospective supervisors' research and professional publications before deciding if they would be a good fit for your research. You may be expected to explain to your potential supervisor how they are best suited to supervise your project with specific reference to research faculty's scholarly work.
3. Make contact – We expect prospective students to contact one prospective supervisor at a time to avoid potential misunderstandings. When you have a good sense of who you might want to approach, and what they focus on in their research, begin to draft your opening email to them. We recommend that this email should do the following:
 - a. Express your interest in our program and in having them supervise you for a specific program start date.
 - b. Briefly summarize your aims and research purpose.
 - c. Identify links between their research and your own, particularly using some of the published work.
 - d. An invitation to connect for a conversation.
4. Forward relevant documentation -- With this opening email, we recommend including the following attachments:
 - a. A 1–2-page proposal that provides more detail than your description in your email. Your proposal should articulate your research questions, your reasons for pursuing these questions, the purpose and aims of your prospective project, your research methodology, and the significance/impact of this research.
 - b. An up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV) to provide the potential supervisor with some of your background information, including past studies and professional experience.
5. Review your email to ensure you have said everything you need, and attached everything you want, and send it out! Ensure you have adequate time to order transcripts, complete your IELTS examination (for international applicants), request 2 academic references, etc.
6. Be patient/time management –Given that the potential supervisor is reviewing your work, understand that it may take at least ten business days to hear back.