

HOW TO FIND A THESIS SUPERVISOR

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Find a thesis supervisor before you apply

Finding a thesis supervisor before you apply to one of the MSc programs will give you a much greater advantage of gaining entry into the program if you meet all the admission requirements. By having a thesis supervisor and some idea of the topic you would like to pursue before you apply, you show the admissions committee that you are ready to start your research journey. Once you have determined that you would like to seek out a thesis supervisor, there are a few steps to consider.

Preparation

*DO YOUR RESEARCH BEFORE CONTACTING
A POTENTIAL THESIS SUPERVISOR*

- Have a clear idea of the field of research you are interested in along with possible research topics. This shows that you are prepared and organized and gives you leverage in convincing them to work with you.
- Read the professors profile and compare your areas of interest. Look at whether they have worked with graduate students before. If they have, read past students research papers that the professor had supervised. Discover the profiles of students and professors by visiting our website at www.telfer.uOttawa.ca/msc/research.
- Read the professors research papers. Very few candidates take the time to read what they have written and if you show that you are knowledgeable about the work they have done they will take an interest in you. Use the search engine scholar.google.ca to research articles published by professors.
- Talk to professors you already know in your field of interest to see if they know anyone who may be a good match.
- The most important part of approaching a potential thesis supervisor is to be prepared. Make sure to come with questions, topic ideas and arguments as to why the professor should take you on as an MSc student.

Establishing Contact

- Do not send generic letters or emails!
- Send a letter or an email to introduce yourself (include information about yourself that will stand out).
- Show initially how your interests match up with that of the professors.
- Include your academic background and CV if possible.

Visiting the Professor

- Meet with the professor if possible or ask for a phone interview if needed.
- Make a list of questions that you would like to ask to establish whether the professor is a good fit for you.
- Most of all, show interest, experience and potential.

Follow up

- Determine whether or not you want to work with the professor after the meeting and always follow up.
- Determine whether or not the professor is available during the time periods that you will be doing research or writing your thesis.

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