

# HOW TO FIND A PHD THESIS SUPERVISOR



CONNECTS YOU TO WHAT MATTERS

## FIND A THESIS SUPERVISOR BEFORE YOU APPLY

Finding a thesis supervisor before you apply to the Telfer PhD program will give you an advantage for gaining entry into the program, provided that 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 committed to your research training. Here are a few steps to consider.

## 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.

## 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, organized and genuinely interested in the professors' research topics.

Read the professors' profiles and compare them with your areas of interest. 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/phd/research](http://www.telfer.uOttawa.ca/phd/research).

Read the professors' research papers. Very few candidates take the time to read what potential supervisors 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](http://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 and topic ideas.

## 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.

To learn more about the Telfer PhD program:

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