

Supervisor Interview Checklist

Finding the right supervisor is a very important decision. It is often more important than finding the right graduate program! You will be working closely with this person for years, so your supervisor should be someone you work well with. You should meet with a potential supervisor to get the chance to ask them some questions before you decide to work with them.

Check that you have all the information you need to proceed with confidence by completing the following checklist:

Research Expectations

- What kinds of research projects take place in your lab? What is the typical balance of laboratory, field, and computational work?
- What are your expectations around time spend on course work, thesis research and teaching assistantships?
- Here are my ideas for a potential thesis topic. Is this feasible? What will my potential research topic be?

Working Relationship

- How many graduate students do you currently have?
- Do you anticipate that you will be reasonably available for the duration of my program?
- On average how long do your students take to complete the program?
- Will we be meeting regularly? Will these meetings be scheduled, or held informally?
- Will there be group meetings that involve other students and/or faculty, such as lab meetings?
- On average, how long does it take you to provide feedback on draft thesis chapters?

Funding and Professional Development

- What is your role in providing financial support? Do you have funding available for my potential research project?
- What are some other sources and duration of funding available to me, such as scholarships and bursaries?
- Will I have opportunities to attend seminars and workshops?

Program Administration

- What is the availability of teaching assistantships in this program?
- Will I be receiving office and/or desk space?
- What are the course requirements for my program?
- How often are supervisory committee meetings to be held?
- How does the candidacy exam work? (for Ph.D. students)