

Institute of Marine Science

Guidance on research supervision for applicants and students

Before commencing your research, you need to confirm a supervisor and research topic via the [Expression of Interest \(EOI\) form](#).

The Academic staff typically have something in mind that they would like to achieve. So, your goal is to find a supervisor who is working in an area you would like to do research in. Please follow the approach below:

1. Find out more by exploring the institute's [research page](#).
2. You can find out more about any researcher name listed on the site, via the [Discovery Profiles](#). You can learn more about what they do, what other students in their group do, and recent publications. Contact details are within the profile. You are not limited to the lecturers in your classes; you can approach anyone.
3. Select a few researchers/areas that interest you. Think about how your background might make you a useful student. Have you taken relevant papers? Have you had any relevant work experience?
4. Email those that interest you. Ensure each email is specific to that researcher.
5. Aim for your email to be concise and informative, ~ two paragraphs is a good goal. Things to cover:
 - i. Who you are and that you are interested in their research.
 - ii. Tell them your background, papers, experience, research interests. You might want to attach a transcript and CV, especially if you have good grades in the most relevant papers. If they are interested, they will likely ask for this.
 - iii. Tell them what postgrad degree you are wanting to do, and in which semester you intend to commence Thesis/Dissertation research.
 - iv. Ask if you could arrange a time to meet/phone/zoom etc - indicate your availability.
6. Wait a week or so and follow up. If people don't respond quickly, it's almost certainly due to them being busy.

Remember, if you are a bit nervous about contacting staff, don't be! They are used to the students getting in touch. What they will be looking for is someone who will be a good "fit" for their lab, in both academic background and in personality. So be yourself and let them know why you are interested in working with them.

Please remember that in some cases there may be limits on the availability of space and/or equipment and on the number of students that a particular staff member can effectively supervise, so there is no guarantee your first choice will be accommodated.