

Request for Post-Graduate Supervision

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Background

The purpose of this document is to provide potential Masters or PhD students with guidelines for producing a request for research supervision. A request for supervision often takes the form of a research proposal which provides an outline of the research project a prospective student may wish to complete. Writing good proposals is quite difficult and, in my experience, it is something that the supervisor and student should do together once some form of agreement between them is already in place. For this reason I refer to this as a request for supervision rather than a proposal, accepting that a full proposal will only follow at a later stage. Please note that this is not part of the formal application process, but precedes it. Application typically commence only after a supervisor has agreed to supervise the project.

Who should apply for a Postgraduate Research Degree?

Performing post-graduate research is a challenging endeavour and it is certainly not something that everyone is suited to. In my experience the following attributes are key indicators of success in post-graduate research:

- An inquiring mind
- Strong work ethic and dedication
- Attention to detail
- Grit and self-motivation
- Good time-management skills
- Academic reading and writing skills
- A strong academic record

Requesting Supervision

Due to the large number of applicants we receive for Master's and Doctoral programmes, and the limited supervision capacity in the department, we cannot accept every application submitted. To ensure that we make good decisions on who to accept and who to reject, we need indicators of an applicant's academic and research aptitude. To this end I would like you to send me the following documents in PDF format:

1. An updated CV
2. Full academic transcripts for all your qualifications
3. Any academic publications that you have authored, including Honours or Masters theses.

In addition to these documents, please produce a short research outline document based on the following steps:

1. Identify and read at least five recently published (last five years) academic research articles that are closely related to the topic you wish to conduct research on. I assume that, as a postgraduate applicant, you are already familiar with searching for academic articles.
2. Produce a 1000-word referenced description of the research topic in formal academic style.
3. Produce a 300-word outline of the research you want to do on this topic.

Take note that the topic you identify may not be the topic you will work on if you are accepted. The purpose of the document is to give me an indication of your thinking, and writing style.

For an indication of research topics that generally interest me see:

- dougaparry.com/publications
- suinformatics.com/ctrq

I am, however, open to working on alternative ideas or other topics than those described above depending on available time, co-supervision expertise, and resources.