Tips for finding potential supervisors

- Use the UNSW ‘Find a Researcher’ search function to look for academic researchers and their research interests - research.unsw.edu.au/researcher
- Search for research topics you are interested in and to see who is working in those fields
- Do internet searches of UNSW researchers who are working in your area
- Conduct a literature search in your area of interest
- Search your area of interest on the main UNSW website - unsw.edu.au
- Contact the postgraduate coordinator in the relevant school for assistance with finding a supervisor - research.unsw.edu.au/postgraduate-coordinator-contacts
- Look at the research being carried out at UNSW’s nine faculties - unsw.edu.au/faculties

Search tip
Start by using broad search terms and then refine them as you go.

Do I pick a research project or does the supervisor? Can I approach a potential supervisor with my idea? You should make direct contact with any potential supervisor you want to study with and let them know what you are interested in. Some supervisors may be able to integrate your area of interest with a project or research area they currently have.

When you contact potential supervisors be sure to include your full contact details, research interests, qualifications and research experience in your correspondence.
How to apply for postgraduate research in 5 steps

Explore these 5 steps in more detail at: research.unsw.edu.au/how-apply-enrol-research-degree

Key dates
Make sure you keep track of the different application deadlines and other key dates. You can find them at research.unsw.edu.au/key-dates

Scholarships
Many scholarships are available for postgraduate research programs, from UNSW, the Australian government, industry partners, and organisations from other countries. research.unsw.edu.au/postgraduate-research-scholarships UNSW’s main scholarships are only offered to students who have met UNSW’s language requirements.

English requirements
All applicants must meet the UNSW English Language admission requirement. unsw.edu.au/english-requirements-policy

Student visa information
Most international students require a student visa to study in Australia. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection is responsible for issuing student visas to Australia, but our International Office can help. international.unsw.edu.au/living-sydney/visas/

Accommodation
UNSW students have many options, from on- and off-campus university accommodation to private housing. international.unsw.edu.au/living-sydney/accommodation/

Transport & facilities
UNSW’s three campuses in Sydney and Canberra offer a range of facilities and transport options. kensington-campus-facilities.unsw.edu.au/getting-unii

UNSW Art & Design campus
artdesign.unsw.edu.au/campus

UNSW Canberra campus
info.unsw.adfa.edu.au/facilities.html

Offers
If your application is successful, you will be sent an offer which will outline any conditions you must meet. Please read your offer letter carefully before accepting. my.unsw.edu.au

Support services
Student Development International can help with accommodation, visas, cultural support, advice on learning in a new environment and professional development. student.unsw.edu.au/international

Student wellbeing
UNSW cares about students’ personal wellbeing as well as their academic success. A range of services to support this are available on campus. student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing

1. Determining eligibility for your chosen degree
- There are a range of research degree programs available at UNSW. Go to the following link for further information: research.unsw.edu.au/postgraduate-research-programs
- Before applying for a postgraduate research program, you will need to determine your eligibility for your chosen degree.

2. Self-Assessment Tool
Assess your eligibility for our research degrees. research.unsw.edu.au/hot-self-assessment-tool
- The faculty and school websites provide detailed information on their program offerings and processes for applying. Some faculties also require applicants to send an Expression of Interest before applying for admission or looking for a supervisor. For detailed faculty information go to: unsw.edu.au/faculties

3. Considerations when selecting a supervisor
Before submitting an application, UNSW requires you to independently contact a UNSW researcher and secure their agreement to supervise. When selecting a supervisor, it is important to consider the following:
- Research area
- Resources (time, space, infrastructure)
- You should also consider whether any of the following are important to you:
  - Personality
  - Compatible working styles
  - Support/mentoring
  - Guidance on skills development

4. Prepare your supporting documents
- Proof of correspondence with a potential supervisor is required for your application. This proof can be a copy of your email correspondence with them and must include the researcher’s agreement to supervise you.
- Required documents include: your supervisor’s agreement, research description, resume, transcripts (including the grading system of the institution), English language test results and referees reports if you are applying for a scholarship.
- Other documentation may also be required. It is important to scan your documents before starting the online application.
- All documents must be in English or include a certified English translation. Proof of supervisor agreement does not guarantee you a place in a UNSW research degree.

5. Submit your application online
You can apply for both admission and one of our main scholarship rounds within the same application.
- Go to: apply.unsw.edu.au
- Once you have secured a supervisor, developed a research proposal and prepared your supporting documents, you are ready to lodge your application. Supporting documents must be uploaded during the online application process.
- Be aware that the deadlines are different if you are applying for a scholarship as well as for admission: http://research.unsw.edu.au/key-dates
- Once you have submitted your application you can track its progress at apply.unsw.edu.au/applications/appTrackInfo.html
- You will also be able to upload any additional documents required to process your application.

Match your research interests with a UNSW supervisor
- Once you find a supervisor that you want to work with, it is important that you email them and meet them - either face to face or via a video call - to ensure that your research interests are compatible.
- As part of the application process you are required to provide a description of your research interests. It is expected that you communicate with your proposed supervisor when you are developing this.
- The research description should be approximately one page in length and include a title, a statement of the research problem, an outline of how you plan to address this problem, and details of your previous research or publications. Check with the faculty or school for any specific requirements.