

GUIDE TO WORKING WITH YOUR ADVISOR

HELPFUL TIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

CONTENT HIGHLIGHT

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WORKING WITH YOUR ADVISOR

What to Expect from Your Advisor

- Quality time and attention
- Treatment as a mature, responsible collaborator
- Positive feedback and constructive criticism
- Share experiences from personal life and professional expertise
- Believe in your abilities
- Openness to learn from you
- A commitment to your personal and professional success

Role and Expectations

Advisor's Role

- Help you orientate and adjust to your program, the department, the campus, and the U.S.
- Advise your course selection and study plan
- Provide resources and information to help prepare your qualifying exams
- Guide your research directions and ideas
- Facilitate your thesis/dissertation writing
- Serve on your thesis/dissertation at your defense
- Promote your career development

Advisors' Expectations for Students

- Hard-working
- Self-motivated
- Well-organized
- Mature and responsible
- Friendly and respectful
- Intellectual curiosity
- Willing to grow (intellectual and personal)
- Directly and effectively communicate issues

Advising Meetings

Help Your Advisor Help you!

- Discuss your needs and learning style
- Communicate expectations
- Become familiar with the working style of your advisor
- Set up regular advising meetings (Weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly)

Things to Discuss with Your Advisor

- Progress/challenges in classes
- Graduation requirements
- Career goals and future directions
- Publication and research questions
- Finding assistantship, financial aids, or jobs
- Networking, contacts, and resources
- Professional development issues

Tips on how to utilize your Advising Meetings effectively

Planning ahead!

- List of topics to discuss
- Relevant information to facilitate decision making
- Summary of progress since last meeting
- List of important upcoming deadlines
- Follow-up issues from your previous meeting

Ask for specific feedbacks!

- Describe your situation and what have you tried
- Propose possible solutions
- Be assertive and directive in asking for feedback



BUILDING A GOOD RELATIONSHIP

Some Appropriate Topics to Help Build a Good Relationship Your Advisor

Weather		Sports		TV shows	
Events on campus		Department events		Your own family	
Research ideas		Questions from class		Article read	

Tips on How to Find good mentors

- Not limited to working only with your advisor (you might need to talk about it with your advisor first)
- Participate in different research teams or projects (you might need to talk about it with your advisor first)
- Get to know professors from class you are taking
- Participate in departmental activities and social events (e.g. new student orientation, department welcome picnic, end-of-semester party...)

WHEN YOU HAVE DIFFICULTIES WORKING WITH YOUR ADVISOR

Have an Open Communication with Your Advisor

- Express your concerns about working with him/her
- Communicate your needs in professional and personal development
- Discuss solutions and try to change on both ends
- ISCS staff are willing to working with you based on your personal situation

If this still doesn't work.....Consider of Switching Advisors

- Identify a couple of faculty members you are interested in working with.
- Learn about faculty members' advising style by talking with their advisees.
- Meet with faculty members and find out if they would be willing to advise you. If they agree, ask them what they feel is the best way to approach your current advisor. This should all be done confidentially.
- Approach your current advisor and talk about changing advisors. Inform them of the person you are thinking of changing to. Be courteous and polite

Re-Selecting an Advisor

- Someone who is willing to be available to meet with you
- Someone you trust and respect
- Someone who will give you constructive feedback
- Someone who has the resources or skills to meet your needs or interests