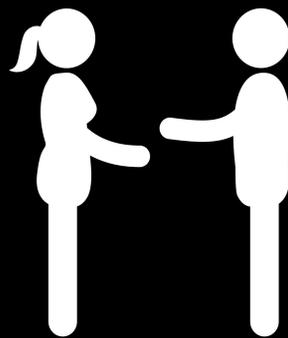


HOW TO APPROACH A SUPERVISOR

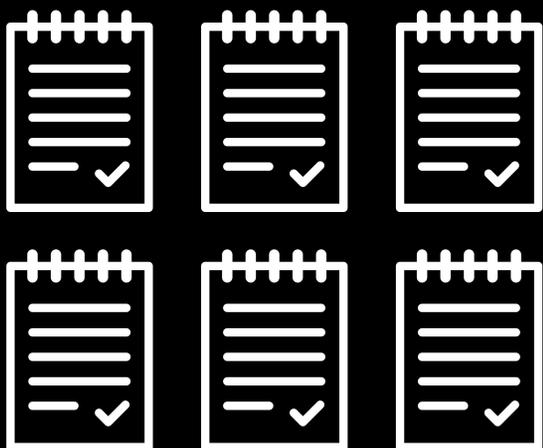
Approaching an academic might sound daunting, but once you summon up the courage to send that initial email, you will realise that academics are just ordinary people with a passion for knowledge and a desire to impart it. So there's no need to be nervous - just follow the steps below and you'll be fine!

1. First impressions count

When approaching academics, it is good to make initial contact by email. Introduce yourself, be clear about why you are getting in touch, and ask about the possibility of an initial meeting - at a time that suits the academic.



Remember, first impressions count, so be professional and polite. Address the academic by their proper title and respect the fact that they might not be able to meet or respond right away.

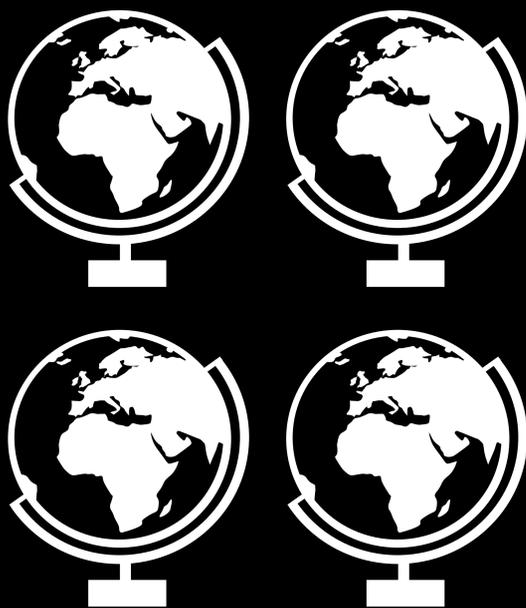


2. Arrive prepared

Once you have secured an initial meeting, it is time to prepare. Academics don't have much spare time, so it is important that you don't waste it. It is a good idea to research the academic's research interest, and to familiarise yourself with their previous work. This will allow you to pitch your project to them in a way that excites them and provokes their curiosity.

3. Ask questions

Asking some informed questions will show that you are engaged in the area and capable of maintaining your own critical stance. Brushing up on your knowledge and doing some extra reading will also help you to answer any questions that you might be asked.

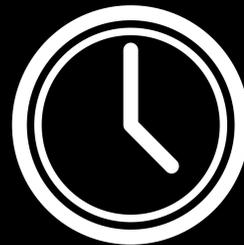


4. Sell yourself

It is important to illustrate that your project is worthwhile. You might wish to point out how your project will overlap with the academic's own research interests, or you could tell them about your future plans. Do you intend to carry this research on into MA or PhD study? Could it have real, beneficial social impact? Might this be the start of an exciting body of research that might one day change the world?

5. Take some time to think

After your first few meetings, it is good to take stock. Is this someone you could work well with? Could they offer future opportunities, maybe for PhD supervision? If you have approached more than one potential supervisor, asking questions like these will help you to decide who you would like to undertake your project with.



Thinking ahead...

One more thing to remember: approaching a supervisor involves a set of skills that will prove invaluable as you progress through your academic and professional careers. The ability to approach others, to establish relationships, to pitch yourself and your ideas - skills such as these are key to success in any industry, so it's great that you've already had some practice!

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