

# Science Experiential Skills Advantage (SESA)

## Finding a Project Supervisor

### Understand the award expectations and criteria

- It is your responsibility to find a supervisor from the Faculty of Science. A supervisor can be a faculty member, postdoctoral fellow or non-academic staff within the Faculty.
- Supervisors may submit up to two Science Experiential Skills Advantage (SESA) applications per award cycle, with each student having a separate project.
- Students may apply with only one supervisor per award cycle.

### Determine your project interests

- Identify project topics that excite you. Which course did you find most engaging, and what made that area of study so compelling? We encourage you to think broadly about what aspects of science interest you the most (e.g., research, scientific communication, education/teaching, museum collections or other interdisciplinary initiatives).
- What are your professional and personal development goals? What type of project would best support your growth in these areas?

### Research potential supervisors

- Visit the Faculty of Science website to find out which faculty members, postdoctoral fellows or non-academic staff are involved in your areas of interest. Their profiles or websites may offer more details about their research or role within the faculty.
- Consult your current or previous professors, teaching assistants, classmates or an academic advisor for recommendations of supervisors who align with your interests.
- Create a shortlist of potential supervisors to approach, keeping in mind that everyone may not have the availability to supervise or their interests may not align with your project goals.

### Connect with a potential supervisor

- Visit the Faculty of Science website to find the contact information for a potential supervisor.
- Reach out to the potential supervisor well ahead of the application deadline, as you may need to contact multiple faculty members. Developing your project and writing the application also takes time, so starting early is crucial.
- Keep all communications professional and respectful.
- In your initial email, ask if they are available to supervise and **briefly** share your reasons for wanting to work with them, the type of project you have in mind, the duration of the award you are seeking (e.g., 2 months in the fall semester, 4 months during the spring/summer semesters) and request a follow up meeting. They may prefer to discuss the details in person or online.
- Remember, the meeting isn't only a chance for the faculty member to evaluate you—it's also your opportunity to assess if they are a good fit for you.
- If the potential supervisor is unfamiliar with the SESA program, be prepared to explain the application process and the expectations for their participation. They can learn more about the SESA program at: [uab.ca/sesa](http://uab.ca/sesa)
- Thank the potential supervisor for their time and consideration.