

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND APPLIED MATHEMATICS

GUIDE ON SELECTING A SUPERVISOR:

PROSPECTIVE MASTER'S STUDENTS

(MSc in Mathematics, MSc in Applied Mathematics, MSc in Mathematics of Finance, MSc in Financial Engineering and MSc in Mathematics Education)

Admission to MSc studies is subject to the availability of a suitable supervisor for the dissertation in a field where research is actively being done within the Department.

Selecting a supervisor for your creative work, i.e. your MSc dissertation, is of critical importance for your success.

In order to communicate constructively with researchers you should make yourself aware of your strengths, weaknesses, interests and aspirations which you will be expected to express.

For information on the research areas and the names of possible supervisors, please go to the departmental webpage at <http://www.up.ac.za/math> .

The following applicable links at the left hand column should be consulted:

1. **Research** – select *Research Focus Areas*. The associated staff are listed underneath each of the five Research areas.
2. Acquaint yourself with the possible supervisors by selecting **Staff** – then go to *Postgraduate Teaching Personnel* or go to *Expert List* under *Research*. Please note that the Extraordinary Professors are not available to act as supervisors. The areas in brackets after each staff member's name are very general, but together with point 1, it will give you a good overview.
3. The final step is to view the recent publications (past five years) of the active researchers. Go to **Staff** and select *Academic Staff*. Their **contact details** are listed there and to access their publications, click on the **name of the researcher**.

Approach the possible supervisors by e-mail, enquiring about their availability and possible topics. Attach all your relevant academic records, your CV and other documents that you feel are necessary. If possible make an appointment for a personal meeting. However, these enquiries can in principle be handled by e-mail. In order to make an informed decision about a topic/field of research and a supervisor it is strongly suggested that you approach at least two or three researchers. If you need assistance in this process you may approach Prof James Raftery (for areas in pure mathematics), Prof Nic van Rensburg (for areas in applied mathematics), Dr Gusti van Zyl (for mathematics of finance and for financial engineering) or Prof Ansie Harding (for mathematics education).

If any researcher confirms that he/she would like to be your supervisor, please inform the Department by e-mail at lorelle.bizaare@up.ac.za.

Please note that the final decision for approval of the supervisor lies with the Head of the Department, but meanwhile you can continue with your official application for admission for Master's studies at UP. The acquirement of a supervisor is not compulsory for **application**, but it is a prerequisite for **admission**.