Things to consider when speaking with a prospective supervisor

The following list includes some important points that you should discuss with prospective supervisors. This list is, of course, not exhaustive.

- What will be the general topic and direction of my project/thesis research? How much input will I have into determining specific project goals?

- How is progress in my research and graduate program monitored and evaluated, both formally and informally?

- What are the expectations of self-motivated learning both from project-related literature and the general field of study?

- What is a reasonable turnaround time for feedback on written work, e.g., conference abstracts, draft manuscripts?

- How are progress meetings and research meetings conducted?

- How will I be financially supported? If I am bringing a scholarship, what happens when it runs out?

- Am I expected to apply for funding for salary? For research? Who is responsible for finding out about funding opportunities?

- How will courses be chosen, and presentations at conferences be chosen and supported?

- What are the expectations regarding work habits – for example, hours spent in the lab or in the field, policies regarding working from home, etc.