

How to find a supervisor or a research project at RWTH Aachen or at a partner university

For IDEA League research stay and grant application you need to find a research project and supervisor at the partner university, and a supervisor also in RWTH. Please note that for the grant application, the RWTH supervisor does not have to be your official supervisor of the planned research stay or thesis. The supervision and responsibilities can be decided between you and the supervisors.

Before planning your research stay abroad, consult your faculty's outgoing coordinator for rules and practical tips to make sure your time and work abroad will be later recognized in RWTH.

Step 1: Identify your area of interest and try to find a matching institute or research area at universities. Check the university's web pages in order to find out about ongoing research activities and fields of research. Some universities have also databases for finding a thesis project, for instance [Sirop](#) platform from ETH, where also other universities upload their offers.

Step 2: Once you have found a possible supervisor prepare following documents:

- Motivation letter, addressing your interest in working at that particular chair and in that specific research field. Indicate also the period of time you would prefer to conduct your project. Indicate whether you are studying at one of our IDEA league partner universities or whether you are planning to apply for a particular grant during your stay.
- Research plan addressing your learning goals. Many labs required research stay of at least six months.
- Academic CV
- Recommendation letter from one of your (previous) supervisors.
- Copy of your student ID or enrollment certificate.
- Transcript of records from your current and/or previous studies

Step 3: Send your application directly to the respective chairs or directly to the professor and wait for feedback. If the chair or the professor is interested in your application, they will contact you. Please do not forget that professors are usually rather busy persons who receive a lot of emails and inquiries such as yours. Therefore it is advisable to write in due time and not to get impatient when you do not receive a reply within a few days. Impatience and unprofessional communication are not going to work on your favor.

It is up to you, whether you find yourself first a supervisor in RWTH and ask for their help and contacts to find a supervisor at partner university, or you first find a project and a supervisor abroad and then one in RWTH.