

Finding an Adviser

- Each student in the honors seminar will be assigned a faculty adviser who is an expert in the general subject area of the proposed thesis. Ideally, this faculty member and the student already know one another (either from the classroom or from a research assistantship).
- Getting to know faculty members is relatively straightforward. First, you should get to know the faculty with whom you are taking classes. You should be going to their office hours on a semi-regular basis. Office hours are not simply for students to ask questions about the homework assignment. You should be going to office hours to discuss the class material, to ask for suggestions for additional reading and to criticize the material. Getting an A or even an A+ in a class is not enough for a faculty member to get to know you and to want to work on your thesis with you. The instructor needs to speak with you about economics on a semi-regular basis (after class or in office hours).
- Working as an RA is another good way to establish a relationship with a faculty member.
- If you are taking a class in the general subject area of your future thesis topic, then speak with your graduate student TAs. The graduate students are generally knowledgeable about which faculty members do research in specific area.
- Look through the faculty directory online. On our website, you will see the option of viewing faculty by subject area. You can then view the individual faculty members' webpages to see their specific research interests.
- In some cases, students may write a thesis with an economist not in the economics department. There are economists at the Business School, SIPA, the School of Public Health etc., and you may work with one of these economists. However, unless you have a prior working relationship with one of these individuals, you should not count on being able to work with that person. These faculty members have responsibilities to the students in their own schools and only rarely are they willing to work with undergraduates.

- Do not contact someone that you do not know to ask if he she will advise you. If you are accepted to the honors seminar, then the department will match you with an adviser. If you do have a good relationship with someone then feel free to speak with that person.