

## Guidelines for MScBIS Applicants

1. Students make initial contact with the programme director, enquiring about application procedures, programme content, workload and timetable, job prospects, fees, scholarships, and other general information. At this point, the student might have some idea of a research topic, but very often they are “feeling the water”. Occasionally, students make direct contact with a potential supervisor for advice on submitting a proposal and may get agreement-in-principle that a supervisor would be willing to take them on, conditional on the satisfaction of entry criteria and the determination of the programme board and Faculty.
2. If a student has a potential research topic / area in mind, the programme director will give that student the names of members of staff whose research interests correspond to that area. If a student has no topic in mind, he/she is advised to take a look at the department Web site where detailed information is currently available on the research areas and publications of individual members of staff:  
Research Areas: [http://www.nuigalway.ie/bis/research/research\\_areas.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/bis/research/research_areas.html)  
Publications: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/bis/research/publications.html>  
Staff Profiles: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/bis/staff/>
3. Students are advised to make contact with a potential supervisor *prior* to submitting an application, because the availability and willingness of a supervisor is a prerequisite for admission.
4. When applications are received, if the programme board decides to admit a candidate and that candidate had arranged agreement-in-principle with a potential supervisor, that supervisor is shown the full application and again consulted on his/her willingness. Where an application is received that satisfies entry criteria and no potential supervisor has been identified in advance, the application is distributed to the Business Information Systems group for expressions of interest.