SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

TO POTENTIAL SUPERVISOR

1) In your opinion, what kind of student will succeed in your lab?
2) What are your expectations in regards to workload, number of hours worked per week, meeting frequency?
3) How many students do you supervise and how often do you see them?
4) How many other students would you consider taking at this time?
5) How much time do you spend in the lab (i.e., what is your availability)?
6) How would you describe your mentoring style? (e.g., hands-on vs. laissez-faire)
7) What is your preferred mode of communication (e.g., face-to-face, email, etc.)?
8) If accepted, will I be working mostly individually or as a member of a team?
9) Do you prefer to be involved in all stages of your students’ research projects (i.e., editing drafts versus just editing the final version)?
10) Do you expect your students to have publications in order to complete their degree?
11) How much will you be able to help in terms of developing my project or later revising it as necessary?
12) What kind of exposure will the project give me in terms of common techniques and more specialized techniques?
13) Which grants have supported your lab, both past and present?
14) How many of your students have external funding?
15) Have the students finished their program in good time?
16) How many students have you successfully supervised in the past? Where have your previous students gone when they finished their degrees (e.g., PhD, postdoc, medical school, industry, etc.)?
17) Will the project lead to publications?
18) How do you determine authorship on publications? Do junior researchers (MSc, for example) in your lab often obtain first author publications?
19) Are there opportunities to participate in conferences?
20) Are there any opportunities for collaborations within the lab that could lead to co-authorship?
## TO POTENTIAL LABMATES

1) How many students are currently in the lab?
2) Are there postdocs, research assistants, or technicians in the lab?
3) What is the turnaround time for the supervisor to edit documents (i.e., abstracts, committee reports, and thesis)?
4) Does the supervisor travel often or have other significant responsibilities? If so, is there someone in their place to assist students, when needed?
5) How does skill training take place in the lab? (i.e., am I expected to develop these skills myself or is there a mentoring/training system in place for new skill acquisition?)
6) Could you describe the overall atmosphere in the lab?
7) Do you practice giving presentations or are you expected to know how to present/answer questions on your own?
8) Do many students from the lab get funding or awards?
9) Do you participate in journal club, and if so, how is it structured?
10) Are the lab meetings regular?
11) Do students in the lab help/collaborate with each other?
12) Do you guys spend time outside work?
13) If you went back in time, would you join this lab?
14) How do you think this lab fares among other labs in the Department?