

# Studentships in Higher Education and Research

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# Studentships in HE

- How do we value (post)graduate students at University?
  - MSc by research and PhD's
- Benefits of studentships
- Disadvantages of studentships
- Specific points
  - Supervision
  - Integration
  - Funding bodies

# The value of graduate students



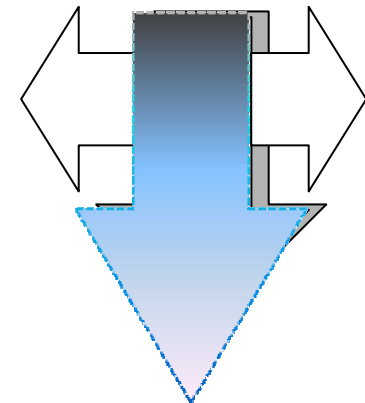
# Value of Graduate Students

They are indispensable!

# The value of graduate students

## Research Program (discipline)

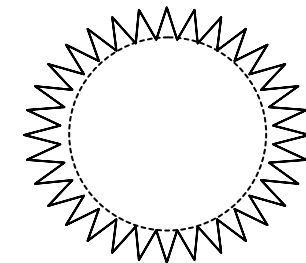
- Add breadth  
The ability to research topics closely related by not centered around current research efforts
- Add depth  
The ability to develop the foundations of a subject that the academic staff cannot do
- Push research forward  
The ability to do cutting edge research



# The value of graduate students

## Research Team (academics and support staff)

- Challenge and develop members of research team
- Support ongoing research efforts
  - Specialized skills obtained in their research efforts
- Add energy and excitement

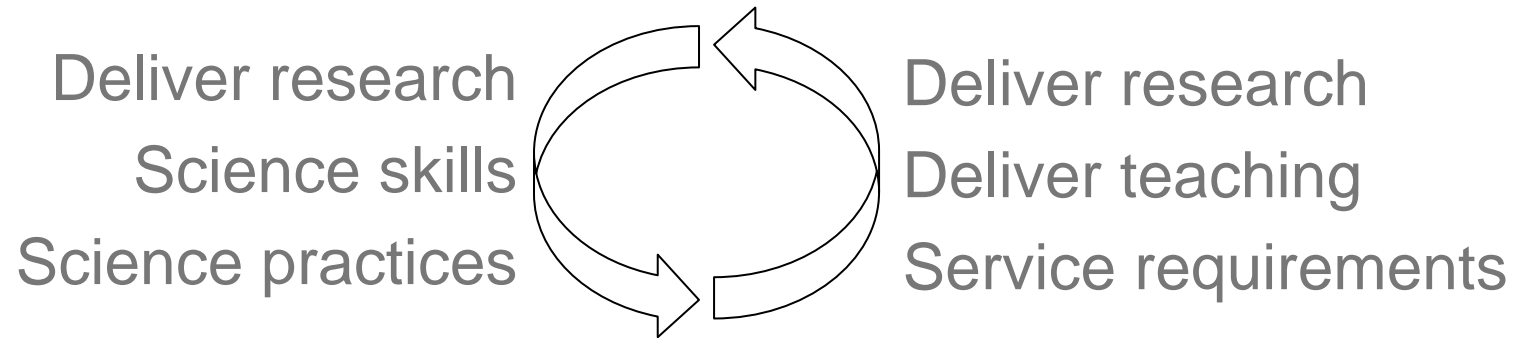


# The value of graduate students

## Teaching/Mentoring

- Teaching
  - Subject relevancy
  - Peer impact
- Mentoring
  - Challenging the MSc and Doctoral process and experience
- Scientific Discipline
  - Develop the new practitioners
  - Develop the new 'scientists'

# Graduate students vs their academic supervisors





# Studentships

## Benefits of Studentships

- Develop and articulate particular research questions
- Develop partnerships with funding agencies
- Impact on the wider Agrifood industry
  - e.g. student placement in the industry

## Disadvantages of Studentships

- Limited in scope/limited in funding
  - 1 yr / 3 yr single individual programs
- Sometime strongly linked to practical outcomes
  - Limited 'blue sky' thinking
- Limited 'buy in' into strategic development of the scientific discipline
  - How strategic?
- Good quality students

## Flags: Student Supervision

- Time constraints
  - Reports, presentations etc
- Recognition of non-academic or external inputs in the research program
  - Formal University recognition of external members on a PhD committee
  - Tension between practical outcomes and scientific endeavor

## Flags: Integration into Research Programs

- Hidden or unexpected costs
  - Laboratory, etc.
- Uncertainty in deliverables
  - Studentships are learning experiences
  - Expected deliverables may have to be provided by research team

## Flags: Dealing with funding bodies

- Unclear which ones are 'out there'?
  - Objectives, scope, co-funding?
- Not always clear on academic vs organizational objectives

Thank You!

