

Developing a Toolbox for Managing International Collaborative PhD Programmes

Session 1: Where we are in terms of handling
international collaborative PhD programmes at
institutional level in SA and EU? (Part 1)

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25th June 2019, Cape Town



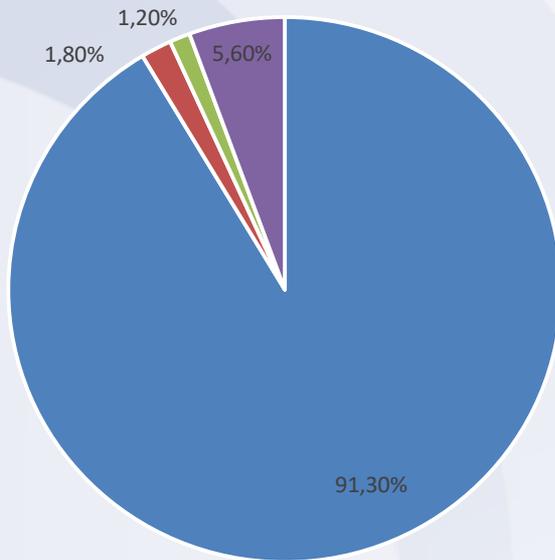
YEBO!

Developing the internationalization
of PhD studies in South Africa

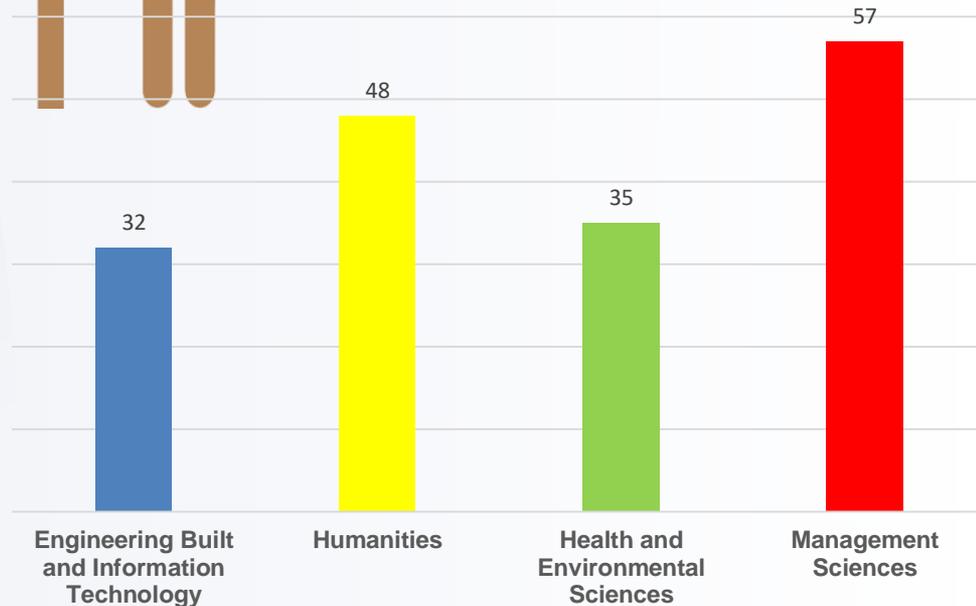
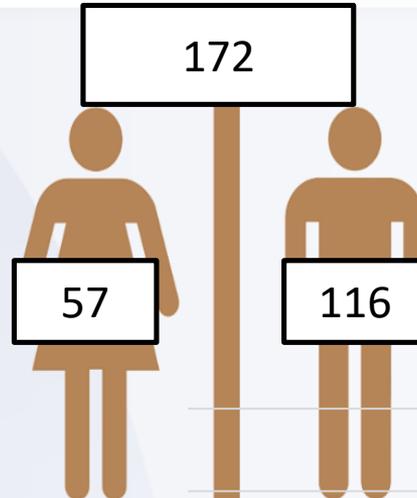


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The CUT PhD students 2019

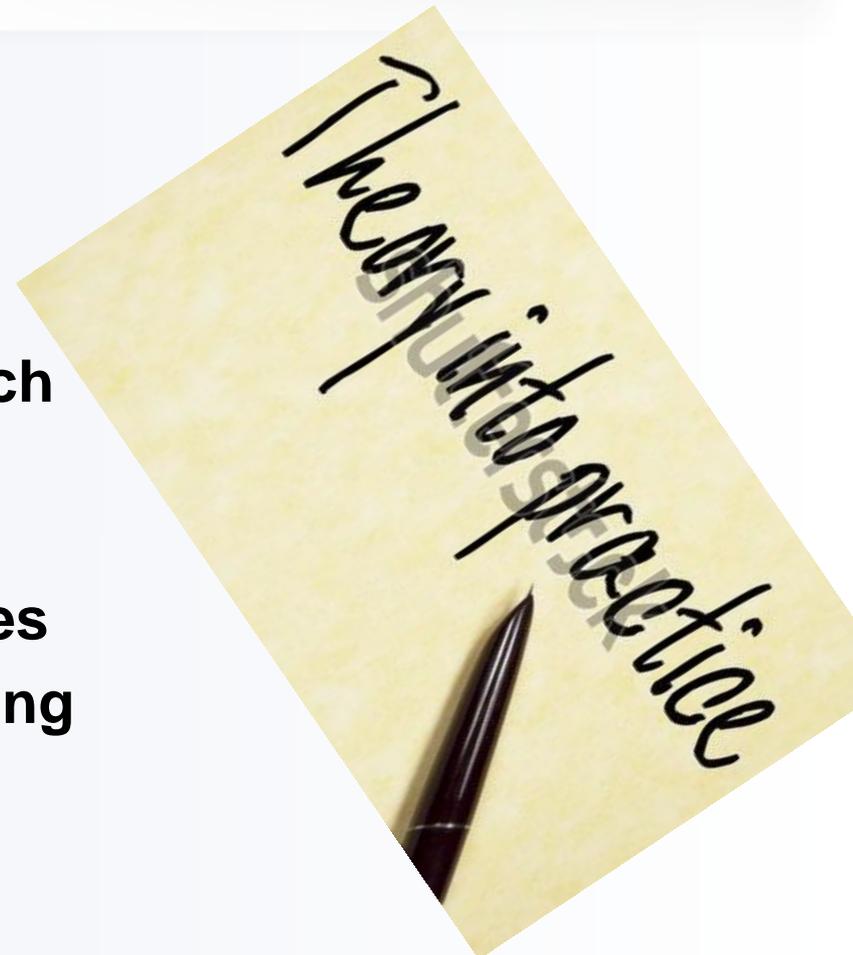


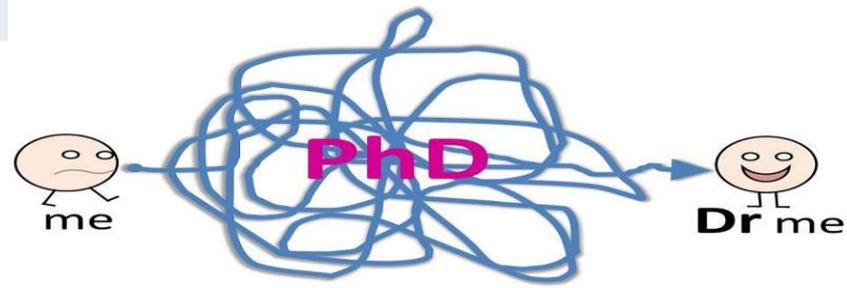
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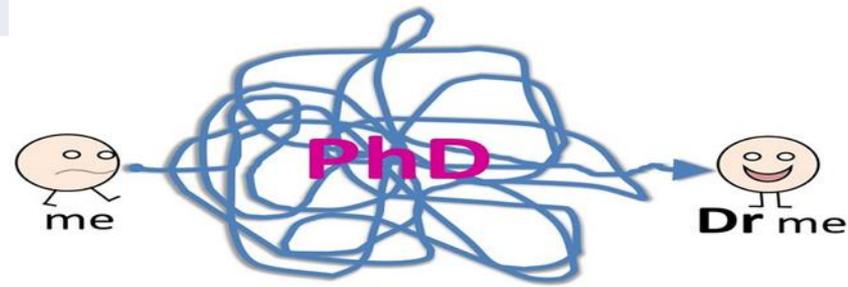
UoT Context

- **Research inventions through the following centres:**
 - ✓ **Centre for Food Sustainability & Biotechnology**
 - ✓ **Centre for Diversity in HE Research**
 - ✓ **Centre for Enterprise & Entrepreneurship**
 - ✓ **Centre for Sustainable Smart Cities**
 - ✓ **Centre for Quality of Health & Living**
 - ✓ **Centre for Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing (CRPM)**





- **The RD & PGS section fulfils five core functions in the Research, Innovation and Engagement Portfolio in support of the academic project. These five functions are:**
 - ✓ **The general administration of research and postgraduate studies**
 - ✓ **The awarding, administration, monitoring and evaluation of internal and external postgraduate students and staff grants and scholarships**
 - ✓ **The development of research skills through workshops and mentorship programmes**



- ✓ **The promotion of research ethics and integrity in scholarly work**
- ✓ **Policies at CUT which supports PhD life cycle e.g. Sabbatical for support staff**
- ✓ **International Credit Mobility for PhD students**

Institutional challenges

1. Supervision capacity and appropriate mentors

- ✓ **Ratio of early career researchers to established researchers**
- ✓ **quality of M+D students**
 - **proposal writing**
 - **scientific writing**
 - **publications in high impact journals**



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Institutional challenges

2. Grow “seniority” of academic staff profile – 1/3 staff has doctorates
 - ✓ research leave and funding for teaching replacements
 - ✓ ability of PhD’s to apply for external funding (too dependent on the NRF)



Breaking the Cycle
of Dependency



Institutional challenges

3. Grow number of completed M+D projects – concern of relevance to socio-economic development
4. Delayed registration process; **taking up of International Credit Mobility Grant**
5. PhD candidates - Gender equality



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Socio-Economic Development
Strategies That Work



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Status quo - faculties

- **Supervision of international students via MoUs with Great Zimbabwe University and Ho Technical university in Ghana**
- **Limited international collaborations w.re. to PhD programmes**
 - ✓ **despite MOUs with international partners**





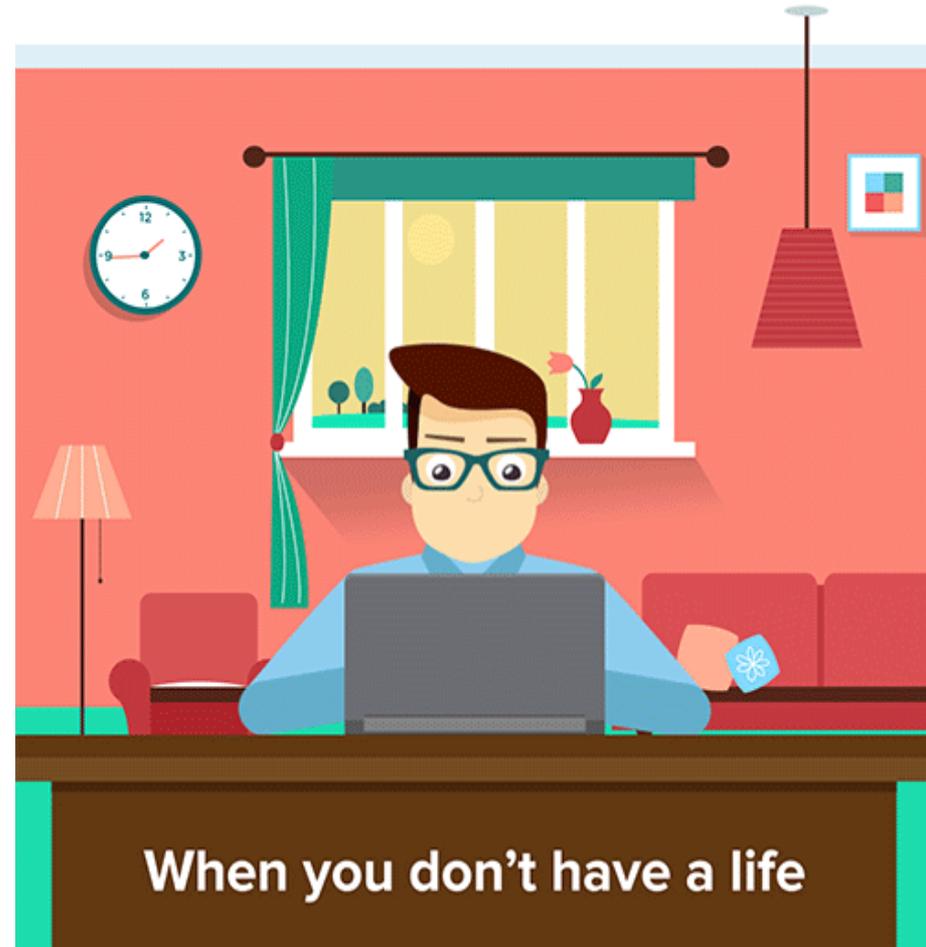
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Status quo - faculties

- **Lack of international experience regarding joint PhD programmes**
- **Lack of collaboration and exchange know-how w.r.e to joint PhDs**
 - ✓ **Limited knowledge of internationalization of research**

Status quo - faculties

- **Workload of current supervision staff**
- **Insufficient time to supervise students**
- **Insufficient experts required for supervision**



Status quo - faculties

- **Lack of knowledge on joint PhD offering models & types**
- **Limited exposure to international PhD programmes**
- **Limited resource allocated to internationalization**

Opens up new area	Produces an ambitious system
Provides unifying framework	Provides empirical data
Resolves long-standing question	Derives superior algorithms
Thoroughly explores an area	Develops new methodology
Contradicts existing knowledge	Develops a new tool
Experimentally validates theory	Produces a negative result

Status quo - faculties



- **Our students lack writing skills**
- **Our students lack international exposure**
- **Our students require a structured module on research methodology**
- **Our students require office space for PG students at faculty level**



- **Expose staff members to the concept of joint PhD offering**
- **Increase staff supervision capacity in the faculties**
- **Provide opportunities for international collaboration, which is backed by resources**
- **Revise the workload model to allow quality supervision**
- **Enhance the administration of the PhD Life Cycle**



- **Implement a professional development programme for PhD candidates and supervisors**
- **Enhance supervisory capability through assistance from international partners**
- **Enhance infrastructure and governance systems with international partners**



THANK YOU



YEBO!



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