



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

Faculty of Agriculture OUTSTANDING GRADUATE SUPERVISION AWARD Terms of Reference

(Granted in Odd-Numbered Years)

The **Outstanding Graduate Supervision Award**, presented by the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture, will recognize faculty members who provide exceptional support, supervision, and advising for graduate students. Excellence in graduate supervision is recognized as the successful mentorship of graduate students through an enriching, supportive and productive learning environment.

The **Outstanding Graduate Supervision Award** will be made in the spring of every odd-numbered year if a suitable candidate is nominated. The contributions of the award recipient will be celebrated at a campus event.

Criteria for the Award:

Nominations should include evidence of qualities and practices that distinguish the nominee as an outstanding graduate supervisor. Evaluation criteria may include:

- Encouraging students' development as scholars through the stimulation and development of both key (inter)disciplinary research skills as well as general graduate professional skills – integrity and ethical understanding, creative and critical thought, teaching and communication skills, and leadership and management skills.
- Mentoring students to become independent scholars in their field and ensuring that students receive support and guidance throughout their program
- Acting as a role model in the discipline and sharing experiences that will inform students' graduate experience and future careers
- Providing on-going constructive feedback on thesis progress to students and facilitating both the timely completion of students' programs and high completion rates for students
- Demonstrating excellence in career development support for graduate students, both within and beyond the academy as appropriate to the discipline. This may include support for graduate students in thesis writing, grant writing, presenting at conferences, publishing, and teaching development, as well as raising awareness of career opportunities and supporting skill development for positions beyond the university.

Eligibility:

Any faculty member who is currently or has recently served as a graduate student supervisor is eligible to be nominated for this award. The award is typically given to an individual who has demonstrated excellence over a number of years.

Nominators:

Members of the Faculty of Agriculture community (staff, faculty, students, and alumni) may nominate or

support nominations.

Process:

1. Nomination forms are available from the Academic Coordination Committee (ACC) Chair (Assistant Dean, Students & Academic Administration).
2. Nomination forms should be accompanied by supporting letters from the nominator and at least two other members of the Faculty of Agriculture community (faculty, staff, students or alumni) who support the nomination. These letters of support should outline how the nominee has demonstrated excellence in graduate supervision. Nominations are submitted to Dr. Keltie Jones, Assistant Dean, Students & Academic Administration, PO Box 550 Truro B2N 5E3, or keltie.jones@dal.ca.
3. The deadline for receipt of complete nominations is **March 15**.
4. The ACC will review the applications and determine which candidate to recommend for the award.
5. The ACC will recommend to the Dean the name of the successful nominee. The Dean will inform the successful candidate and will prepare the citation for the award recipient.
6. The award will normally be presented at a specially designated institutional function at the end of the Winter semester. (Timelines will be adjusted accordingly each year of the award.)