The **Mitacs** *Exercise*
Accelerate

Background:

Mitacs is a national, not-for-profit organization that assists in designing and delivering research and training programs in Canada. Working with many universities, thousands of companies, and both federal and provincial governments, they build partnerships that support industrial and social innovation in Canada[1].

Mitacs Accelerate is Mitac's research internship program. It connects companies with research-based universities through graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, who apply their specialized expertise to business challenges. The intent of this program is that interns transfer their skills from theory to real-world application, while the companies gain a competitive advantage by accessing high-quality research expertise[2].

In this exercise, MDM students will participate in the creation of Mitacs Accelerate grant applications. In addition, each group will act as referee for several Mitacs Accelerate grant applications.

Required:

Formation of Groups

- MDM students are to form groups of 3 or 4 students and nominate a "correspondent".
- The correspondent is to email aferworn@ryerson.ca with the names of the individuals in their group
- The correspondent will receive a secret fictional MDM student name to be used in the rest of the exercise.
- This name **_must not be disclosed_** to anyone outside of the group.
- The fictional name will be used to identify both the group and the Mitacs Accelerate application that the group will submit for adjudication. In other words, the fictional name will be used in the "name" fields of the application.

Creation of a MITACS "Accelerate" grant application

- Each group is to complete a Mitacs Accelerate application using the guide[3] provided
- Ignore bullet points 4, 5, 8 and 9 of the instructions on the form.
- Use the secret student name provided to you as the name of the intern on the form
- The faculty supervisor should be "Alexander Ferworn"[4]
- Make an appointment with Michael Carter to be interviewed by a "Partner Organization[5]"
- The intern CV should be included (use a group member's but modify it to reflect the secret student name)
- No signatures are required in this exercise

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[1] From: https://www.mitacs.ca/en/about-mitacs
[2] From: https://www.mitacs.ca/en/newsroom/media-kit/about-mitacs-accelerate
[3] The Accelerate Guide and Proposal Template can be found at http://www.mitacs.ca/en/programs/accelerate/proposal
[4] Data for Alexander Ferworn can be found on or around his home page: www.scs.ryerson.ca/~aferworn
[5] The partner organization and its requirements will be used in the application

- Save the application package in a .zip archive[6] with the file name <first><last>.zip where "first" and "last" are the given and surname of the group's secret student name respectively.
- The correspondent for the group should send the zipped application package to aferworn@ryerson.ca with the subject "Mitacs application for <*secret student name*>" no later than the due date.

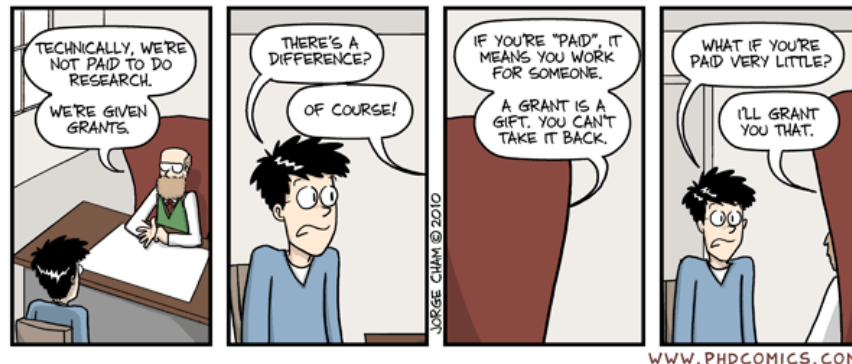## Adjudication of MITACS "Accelerate" grant applications
- Each group will receive 3 applications to review.
- Follow the guidance of the Mitacs guide for referees[7].
- The group must rank their applications from best to worst
- The rejection of at least one application is mandatory

Referee Decisions Revealed
- On the date indicated, each group will make a brief presentation revealing their ranked list
- Reasons must be provided as to why the list was ranked the way it was
- Reasons why an application was rejected (other than it was mandatory to do so) must also be presented

Significant Dates

Activity	Due NLT[8]	Information
Correspondent sends in group names	February 10, 2017 3 PM	Email aferworn@ryerson.ca
Secret student name issued to group	February 10, 2017	Sent from aferworn
Mitacs Accelerate application submitted	February 25, 2017 8 PM	Email aferworn@ryerson.ca
Mitacs Accelerate applications to be refereed available	February 27, 2017	Distributed by aferworn
Referee Decisions Revealed	March 2, 2017	During class

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[7] See: https://www.mitacs.ca/en/guide-referees
[8] NLT: No Later Than