What is the 3MT competition?

Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) celebrates the exciting research conducted by PhD students around the world. Developed by The University of Queensland (UQ), the competition cultivates students’ academic, presentation, and research communication skills. Presenting in a 3MT competition increases their capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes, in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience. Competitors are allowed one PowerPoint slide, but no other resources or props. The first 3MT competition was held at UQ in 2008 with 160 Higher Degree by Research students competing. Since 2011, the popularity of the competition has increased and 3MT competitions are now held in over 600 universities and institutions across 65 countries worldwide.

APPLICATION CRITERIA:

1. Stage of research
   1. I have defended my thesis/dissertation (Highest Priority)
   2. I have analyzed data and I am ready to report results
   3. I have collected data and I am ready to analyze data
   4. I have an approved research proposal
   5. I have a research idea
2. Date of graduation
   • Closest graduation date to 3MT competition
3. Diversity of academic departments and programs
   • All academic departments and programs are welcome to apply and present
   • Medical school students are not eligible to receive scholarship incentives
4. Previous presentations at 3MT competition event
5. Quality and effectiveness of single static PowerPoint slide
   • Late applications will be subject to review, as the committee deems necessary.
   • Presentations not selected require reapplication and submission in future events.
   • Presentation selections are subject to the application criteria above, in addition to any internal criteria set forth by the Director of Professional Development and its subcommittee.

RULES:

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description are allowed. The slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are to commence from the stage.
• Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through either movement or speech.
• The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

Scholarships:
The Graduate Student Association (GSA) will provide scholarships, upon selection from the judges, $500 for 1st place, $300 for 2nd place, and $200 for 3rd place directly to student’s university account. A People’s Choice Award winner will be selected by collective votes from the audience; scholarship amount varies by semester. In addition, the student with the highest score from the fall and spring WMU 3MT competitions will represent WMU at the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools regional contest and will compete for the chance to participate in the US finals. The winner of the US finals will participate in the International competition.