



Judging Criteria

3 Minute Thesis Competition

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 \(UQ\)](http://www.uq.edu.au), 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.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Comprehension & Content

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background and significance to the research question being addressed, while explaining terminology and avoiding jargon?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the impact and/or results of the research, including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Was the thesis topic, research significance, results/impact and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

Engagement & Communication

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialise or generalise their research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
- Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?

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, \$200 for 3rd , and \$100 for 4th place directly to student's university account. People's Choice Award winners 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.