



An 80,000 word thesis
would take 9 hours to
present. Their time limit....

3 minutes

3MT Informational Meeting

Presented by

The Academic Writing Center

Université Paris Saclay



Competition Overview

Three Minute Thesis (3MT[®]) celebrates the exciting research conducted by PhD students. Developed by The University of Queensland (UQ), the exercise cultivates students' academic, presentation, and research communication skills.

The competition supports their capacity to effectively explain their research and its significance in three minutes, in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

3MT[®] is now a globally-recognised competition. In 2019, over 900 institutions across more than 80 countries are holding a 3MT[®] event.

Competition History

The idea for the Three Minute Thesis (3MT[®]) competition came about at a time when the state of Queensland was suffering severe drought. To conserve water, residents were encouraged to time their showers, and many people had a three-minute egg timer fixed to the wall in their bathroom. The then Dean of the UQ Graduate School, Emeritus Professor Alan Lawson, put two and two together and the idea for the 3MT competition was born.





Competition Goals

Skills development for research candidates

Participating in 3MT develops academic, presentation and research communication skills, while developing research candidates' ability to effectively explain their research in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

Building research culture in universities

3MT provides a valuable opportunity for candidates to come together (live or virtually), get to know one another and talk about their research. It also provides a supportive environment in which schools, institutes and universities can provide presentation skills training.

Building external relations for the university

3MT winners may go on to represent their university at national and international 3MT competitions which provides an excellent networking and professional development opportunity. Previous 3MT finalists have benefited from invitations to a variety of other networking events following their participation in the competition.

Competition Rules

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description, 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 movement or speech.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.



Eligibility Criteria

PhD candidates who have begun the second year of their program by the date of their first presentation are eligible to participate. Graduates are not eligible.

Judging Criteria

Comprehension and Content

- Presentation provided clear background and significance to the research question
- Presentation clearly described the research strategy/design and the results/findings of the research
- Presentation clearly described the conclusions, outcomes and impact of the research

Engagement and Communication

- The oration was delivered clearly, and the language was appropriate for a non-specialist audience
- The PowerPoint slide was well-defined and enhanced the presentation
- The presenter conveyed enthusiasm for their research and captured and maintained the audience's attention



Prizes

Winner

Runner-up

People's choice



Schedule of Events

3MT training course

required to participate, 2 sessions offered

Selection of 8 finalists

February 13-17, finalists emailed at the end of the day, February 17th

Individual coaching session for finalists

March 6-10

Each finalist is required to attend 3 coaching sessions, each 2 hours, to help prepare for the final

Final

March 16, 2023



3MT Training Course

The 10-hour 3MT training course is open to all PhD students in the second or third year of their program who want to participate in the 3MT® competition. Through attending the course, students will be able to effectively explain the research of a doctoral thesis, in English, to a non-specialist audience in three minutes.

Lecture topics include: methods for efficiently practicing a presentation, linguistic strategies for sounding natural, using rhetoric to develop a script, and techniques for structuring a presentation.

In addition to attending the course, students will be expected to complete the following out-of-class activities: write a script for their 3MT talk, record videos related to the in-class speaking activities, and make a recording of their 3MT talk. During the last class of the course, students will be expected to give their 3MT talk live during a "mini" competition. The top 4 competitors from each section will be required to participate in the final competition on March 16, 2023.

3MT Training Course

Instructor



Melissa Thomas
melissa-ann.thomas@centralesupelec.fr

- Session 1

ADUM number: 3499235

Location: CentraleSupélec, Bouygues, sb. 207,

Time: 10h-12h

Dates: January 13th, January 20th, January 27th,
February 3rd, and February 10th

Maximum number of students: 20

- Session 2

ADUM number: 3499238

Location: CentraleSupélec, Bouygues, sb. 207,

Time: 14h-16h

Dates: January 13th, January 20th, January 27th,
February 3rd, and February 10th

Maximum number of students: 20



For more information...



Academic Writing Center
CentraleSupélec, Université Paris-Saclay
9 rue Joliot-Curie
Bâtiment Bouygues, offices sa201 & 204
91190 Gif-sur-Yvette

writingcenter@centralesupelec.fr



GMT[®] **THREE
MINUTE
THESIS**
FOUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Hope to see you in 2023!