



3MT[®]

THREE MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

Handbook for the Participants



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OVERVIEW

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) is an internationally recognized competition for thesis-based graduate students in which participants present their scholarly and creative activity and its wider impact in 3 minutes or less. The challenge is to present complex research in an accessible and compelling way with the assistance of only one static slide.

Created in 2008 by Dr Alan Lawson at the University of Queensland, Australia, the 3MT® competition celebrates exciting and innovative graduate student research while promoting communication, public speaking, and storytelling skills. The competition offers an exciting and thought-provoking opportunity for graduate students, pushing them to consolidate their ideas and crystalize their research discoveries. Presenting in a 3MT® competition increases the capacity of graduate students to effectively explain their scholarly and creative activity in a clear and concise manner, and in a language appropriate to a general audience. The competitions are open to the public and advertised within the community, which enables students to showcase their work across disciplines within the university and to the broader public.

The competition has become a popular research communication initiative in Canada and across the world. Today, more than 600 universities and institutions in 65 countries host annual 3MT® competitions, including some that are conducted entirely online. The first 3MT® competition to be held in Canada took place at the University of British Columbia in 2011, and in 2014 the first national 3MT® competition was held. University of Regina conducted its first 3MT® in 2016. The winner from the U of R 3MT® gets a chance to participate in the Western Regional competition before competing in the nation-wide competition, Canada's 3MT®. The latter event takes place in an online setting and is hosted by the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS).



Eligibility Criteria:

- Full-time Master's or Ph.D. students registered in thesis-based programs and in good standing are eligible to participate.
- Graduate students in course-based programs, visiting students, exchange students, and students on leave are not eligible to participate.
- Graduate students at any stage of their program are eligible to participate.
- Graduate students who have convocated are not eligible to participate. Graduate students who have already defended their thesis but have not yet convocated are eligible to participate.
- Presentations must be based on the primary research the graduate student has conducted in their graduate program.
- Graduate students should conduct their presentation in English.
- Graduate students must present in person, agree to be photographed and digitally recorded, and allow any recordings to be made public.



Staging and Performance Rules:

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted.
- PowerPoint slide should be created using an aspect ratio of 16:9
- 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) is permitted
- No additional props are permitted (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment)
- Presentations are limited to three minutes maximum; competitors exceeding three minutes are disqualified
- Presentations are to be delivered in regular prose (e.g. no poems, slam poetry, raps, songs, or spoken word presentations)
- Presentations must commence from and remain on the stage
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter initiates either movement or speech
- The decision of the judging panel is final



Judging Criteria:

The competitors will be judged based on the following criteria

Communication:

- Non-verbal communication of presenter (i.e., eye contact, voice modulation, body language)
- The language of the presenter which should be understandable to the general audience
- The logical sequence of the presentation.
- The adequate time spent on each element of the presentation.

Comprehension:

- The clear explanation of the scholarly of the research being undertaken.
- The clear outline of the nature and purpose of their research by the presenter.
- The fascinating or compelling aspects of the research.
- The presentation providing an answer to the understanding and significance of the research question being asked.
- The presentation explaining about the conclusion and/or results of the research, including conclusions and outcomes.

Engagement:

- Capturing and maintenance of the audience's attention and interest.
- The enthusiasm for their work and its portrayal in the presentation.
- Inspiring the audience and viewers to know more about the topic.
- The carefulness of the presenter in not trivializing or generalizing their research.



Prizes:

The following are the prizes for the winners of the 3MT®

- First Prize - \$1,500
- Second Prize - \$1,000
- Third Prize - \$500
- People's Choice Award - \$500

Competition Advancement:

- The Winner from the University of Regina 3MT® competition will advance to participate in the Western Regional 3MT® competition.
- The top four (4) finalists as ranked by the judges from the Western Region will advance to the National 3MT®, competition.
- Winner of the People's Choice award shall not advance further to the Regionals, 3MT® competition unless selected by the judges as winner.



Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Considerations:

Students must understand that the presentation of their research in a 3MT setting will be publicly accessible and in the public. Thus, all the contestants will be provided an official release form prior to their presentation. The presentation of the research, will not affect any pre-existing rights following the competition except as stated below:

- Due to the nature of the competition, judges, reviewers, staff or the audience will not be asked to sign non-disclosure statements.
- If your research is being/has been conducted under contract with an outside sponsor, please discuss the related contractual terms of confidentiality and intellectual property with your supervisor before participating in this competition.
- All public sessions of the competition, including but not limited to oral presentations, open to the public at large; any and all of these public sessions may be broadcast to interested persons through media which may include the internet.
- Any data or information discussed or presented in public sessions should be considered in the public domain.
- If your research includes confidential or culturally sensitive material, we advise that you discuss your competition entry with your supervisor.



Additional Resources and Information:

- For the Western Regional 3MT® competition – [Western Regionals 3MT](#)
- For the National 3MT® competition - [CAGS - National 3MT competition](#)
- General information about 3MT - [University of Queensland 3MT](#)