



3MT COMPETITION 2021

INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS

WHAT IS 3MT?

The University of Queensland (UQ) [3MT Competition](#) cultivates your academic, presentation, and research communication skills. Presenting in a 3MT competition increases your capacity to effectively explain your research in three minutes, in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

HISTORY

The idea for the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) 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.

- 2008: The first 3MT competition was held at UQ with 160 Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates competing.
- 2009: The 3MT competition was promoted to other Australian and New Zealand universities and enthusiasm for the concept grew.
- 2010: A multi-national event was developed, and the Inaugural Trans-Tasman 3MT was held at UQ.
- 2013: The first Universitas 21 (U21) 3MT Competition was held with several universities from around the world competing in a virtual competition.
- 2016: 3MT brought about an expansion of the Trans-Tasman 3MT competition to include universities from South-East and North Asia regions. The competition since then has been called the Asia-Pacific 3MT Competition and is hosted annually by UQ.
- 2021: 3MT moves to a temporary virtual format due to COVID-19 (location dependant)
- Now: 3MT is held in over 900 universities across more than 80 countries worldwide

SCHOOL/INSTITUTE 3MT ROUNDS

Each School/Institute is required to host an internal 3MT Round to select a Winner (and optionally a Runner-up and People's Choice). The Winner will be put forward to represent their School/Institute at the 3MT Final.

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).
 - Virtual presentations can make the slide visible continuously (picture-in-picture) or cut to the slide for up to one (1) minute.
- 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 three (3) minutes maximum and competitors exceeding the time limit 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.
 - Virtual presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through speech (timing does not commence from the start of the video).
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.
- Competitors are not judged on video/recording quality or editing capabilities. Judging will focus on the presentation, ability to communicate research to a non-specialist audience and the slide.

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

- 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 slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?

ELIGIBILITY

All PhD and Professional Doctorate candidates who have successfully passed their Confirmation of Candidature milestone (including candidates with a thesis currently under submission) by the date of their School/Institute Round are eligible to participate in 3MT competitions at all levels, including the Asia-Pacific 3MT competition.

Master of Philosophy/Master of Research (Stage 2) candidates are only eligible to compete at the School/Institute level.

Students that have been approved to graduate or have graduated are not eligible.

3MT FINAL PRIZES:

Schools/Institutes have the discretion to offer prizes for their own 3MT Round.

The Graduate Research School will provide prizes for the 3MT Final.

- Winner - \$TBA
- Runner-up - \$TBA
- People's Choice - \$TBA