

GSBS Three Minute Thesis Competition Rules and Judging Criteria

INFORMATION FOR CONTESTANTS

WHAT IS 3MT?

The Three Minute Thesis competition celebrates the exciting research conducted by Doctor of Philosophy students. Developed by The University of Queensland, 3MT cultivates students' academic, presentation, and research communication skills. The competition supports their capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes, in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

ELIGIBILITY

Active, full-time PhD students in good academic standing are eligible to participate in the 3MT competitions. Students must present their independent academic research conducted here at UMass Chan.

PRELIMINARY 3MT ROUND

To take part in the preliminary round of the GSBS 3MT competition, students must pre-record their presentation for consideration by the judges. This will ensure participants are not disadvantaged due to technical issues during a presentation.

PRELIMINARY ROUND RULES

- Submissions must be a video format.
- Presentations limited to 3 minutes and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (no poems, raps, or songs).
- Presentations have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through speech (timing does not include the 3MT title slide and commences when the competitor starts speaking, not the start of the video).
- Videos must meet the following criteria:
 - Filmed on the horizontal (if using a phone).
 - Filmed on a plain background.
 - Filmed from a static position.
 - Filmed from one camera angle.
- A single static slide must be submitted **separately** and should not be included in the video (Note: do not "share screen" if filming via Zoom). The slide cannot contain any slide transitions, animations, or 'movement'.
- The 3-minute audio must be continuous (no sound edits or breaks).
- No additional props (costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted within the recording.
- No additional electronic media (sound and video files) are permitted within the recording.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

Note: competitors *will not* be judged on video/ recording quality or editing capabilities. Judging will focus on the presentation, ability to communicate research to a non-specialist audience, and 3MT PowerPoint slide.



JUDGING CRITERIA

Comprehension and Content

- Presentation provided clear motivation, background, and significance to the research question.
- Presentation clearly described the research strategy/design and the results/findings of the research; and
- 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.

FINAL LIVE ROUND

Submitted videos and slides will be viewed and discussed by a panel of judges from the UMass Chan community. 8-10 finalists will be selected to move on to the final live round of the competition scheduled to take place in front of a live audience of UMass Chan community members.

The final round will follow the same rules and guidelines listed above, with the major difference being that the presentation will be presented live. The UMass Chan community will be invited as an audience. A panel of alumni judges will select the winner and runners-up, based on the same criteria listed above.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE VOTE

An important aspect of the competition is the People's Choice prize. Following all presentations, the audience is asked to vote on who they thought gave the most convincing 3MT presentation (based on their understanding of the criteria above). Voting to be facilitated via an online poll. A finalist can be the winner or runner-up and still receive the People's Choice award.

PRIZES

- Winner: All-expense paid conference travel award*
- Runner-up: \$500 professional development award
- People's Choice: \$500 professional development award

*Award will cover the following costs for an approved conference: registration, travel costs, lodging, and meals not covered by the conference registration (per diem). Institutional policies apply.