



# 3MT

THREE  
MINUTE  
THESIS

FOUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

## Competition Overview

Three Minute Thesis (3MT<sup>®</sup>) is a research communication competition developed by The University of Queensland (UQ). PhD students have three minutes to present a compelling oration on their thesis and its significance. 3MT challenges students to consolidate their ideas and research discoveries so they can be presented concisely to a non-specialist audience.

Since 2008, enthusiasm for the 3MT concept has developed rapidly and 3MT competitions are now held in over 600 universities and institutions across 65 countries worldwide.

# Competition History



2008 - 3MT developed by The University of Queensland (UQ)

2010 - Inaugural Trans-Tasman 3MT held at UQ

2013 - Universitas21 held first U21 Virtual 3MT

2016 - University of Queensland held first Asia-Pacific 3MT

## UMD Success in the U21 Virtual 3MT Competition

2014 – Amy Marquardt, Materials Science and Engineering (First Prize and People’s Choice)

2015 – Carly Muletz Wolz, Biological Sciences (People’s Choice)

2017 – Sammy Ramsey, Entomology (First Prize and People’s Choice)



THE  
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# 3MT 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.



# 3MT 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 trivialize 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?



# University of Maryland

## 3MT Competition



### First-Round College-Level

- 5 college-level competitions:
  - CMNS
  - ENGR
  - ARHU-BSOS
  - AGNR-BMGT-PLCY-SPHL
  - ARCH-EDUC-INFO-JOUR
- Each college-level competition can advance up to 4 students to compete as Semi-Finalists in the Final-Round.
- College-Level prizes will be determined at the college level.

### Final-Round Campus-Level

- Up to 20 Semi-Finalists will compete in the Final Round.
- An interdisciplinary panel will name up to six Campus-Level winners.
- Campus-level winners will receive a \$1000 prize and professional production of their 3MT presentation.

**Full Details:** [gradschool.umd.edu/funding/student-fellowships-awards/umd-three-minute-thesis-competition](https://gradschool.umd.edu/funding/student-fellowships-awards/umd-three-minute-thesis-competition)



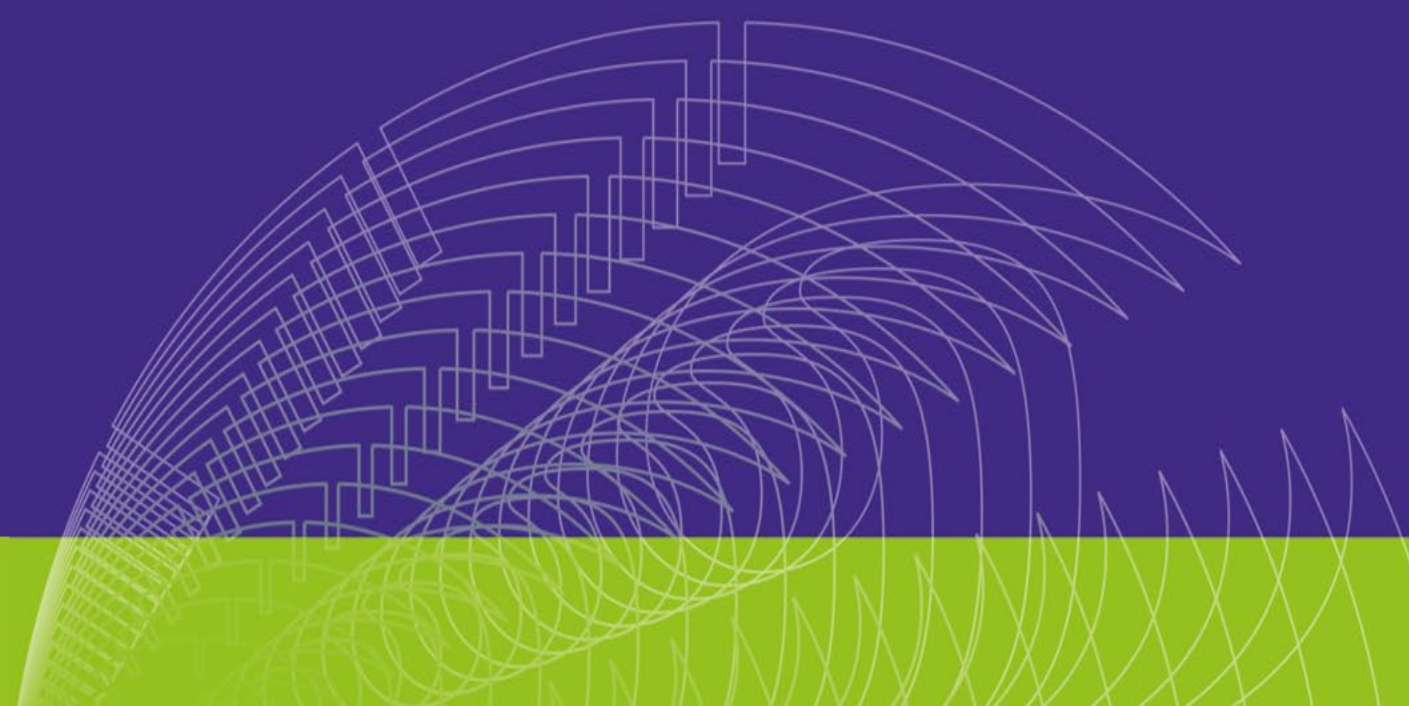
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