3-Minute Thesis Competition 2023

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“Science is not finished until it’s communicated”
Sir Mark Walport
(former UK Government Chief Scientific Advisor)
What is the 3MT?

What’s a “three minute thesis”?
   an engaging & dynamic talk
   on your thesis topic and its significance
   in three minutes
   in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience

http://threeminutethesis.org

3MT is a professional international competition which was developed by the University of Queensland in 2008.
What’s the aim?

To build your capacity to explain research to a non-specialist audience and consolidate your ideas & discoveries

To promote higher degree research within university and wider communities
What’s in it for me?

- Skills
- Portfolio piece
- Fame & fortune

MQ Final Prizes
- Winner: $1000
- Second Place: $500
- Third Place: $250
- People's Choice: $250

A spotlight interview on 2SER radio for all MQ finalists
## Who can enter?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can enter</th>
<th>Cannot enter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anyone currently enrolled in a PhD or MPhil</td>
<td>MRes candidates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(MPhil candidates can progress to MQ Uni finals, but not to Asia-Pacific 3MT competition)</td>
<td>Those enrolled in a <em>professional</em> doctorate by coursework (ie less than 2/3 research)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDR candidates at time of <em>first</em> 3MT heat, regardless of status change by Asia Pacific event date (16 Sept)</td>
<td>HDR <em>graduates</em> at time of first heat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HDR candidates who have not yet passed Confirmation of Candidature by first heat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For finals, those who have not won their preceding heats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[https://students.mq.edu.au/study/hdr/3-minute-thesis-competition](https://students.mq.edu.au/study/hdr/3-minute-thesis-competition)
# What are the rules?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Dos</strong></th>
<th><strong>Don’ts</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stay within 3 minutes</td>
<td>Go overtime (or too far undertime)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use one static slide</td>
<td>Use more than one slide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speak on <em>your</em> research project</td>
<td>Include animation on your slide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay in the frame for the whole talk</td>
<td>Use any other media (sound/video files)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film continuously for the 3 minutes (no cuts or other angles)</td>
<td>Use any props, eg costumes, instruments, samples, models, equipment, other people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Memorise your talk]</td>
<td>Deliver your talk as a song, poem, rap, role play</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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What am I judged on?

**Comprehension and content**

• Presentation provided clear background and significance to the research question.

• Presentation provided clear positionality* of the presenter to the research and research approach.

• 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.

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Positionality

the disclosure of how someone identifies (race/gender/class), their experiences, their privileges etc and **how those things exert influence** on their research

What proportion of the presentation might focus on positionality?

• It should not be the main focus of the presentation
• A scene setting/disclosure element usually towards the beginning
• When and where will depend on the flow of the presentation
Positionality

• What are my goals as a researcher, particularly in regards to the study/paper in question?

• What/who has shaped my processes of selecting (and not selecting) the research field, participants, methods, terms, data, literature, etc.?

• How are my choices tied to who I am, what I know, what I have access to, and what I believe in?

• How may my choices differ from the ones of a reader/colleague who belongs to a different social, cultural, or disciplinary group? What do they need to know about me so they can relate to my choices?

Additional considerations

• 3MT remains VIRTUAL!!

Video submission only
(no live presentations before an audience)
**Lights, camera, action!**

**Virtual 3MT tips**

**Equipment:**
- ✔ Video camera/ smart phone
- ✔ Tripod / camera mount (not a person!)
- ✔ Video editing software

**Location:**
- ✔ Indoor room
- ✔ plain background

**Lighting:**
- ✔ position light source *in front* of you
- ✔ natural light is better than artificial
- ✔ avoid dark shadows

**Eye contact:**
- ✔ position the camera at eye level
- ✔ look directly into the camera
- ✔ memorise your talk

**Audio:**
- ✔ eliminate background noise
- ✔ eliminate echo/reverb with soft furnishings
- ✔ a continuous 3 minute take: no sound edits or breaks
- ✔ if using a lapel mic, test levels and potential interference
- ✔ speak clearly and with passion

**Visuals:**
- ✔ Remain in focus at all times
- ✔ Stand and deliver (half of torso showing)
- ✔ No props, costumes, busy or virtual backgrounds, animations

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Note: Competitors *will not* be judged on video/recording quality or editing capabilities (optional inclusions). Judging will focus on the presentation, ability to communicate research to a non-specialist audience, and 3MT PowerPoint slide.
Video formats and requirements

Top right: e.g. Ruby Stevens

Cut to: e.g. Hamid Yahyaei

- Film in the horizontal, ie, landscape orientation
- Film on a plain background
- Film from a static position and from one camera angle
- Insert the MQ 3MT title slide at the beginning (for 3-5 s)
- Insert your 3MT PowerPoint slide (top right corner/cut to): use video editing software for this, eg OpenShot video editor, kapwing (has watermark)

For step-by-step instructions, go to the Virtual 3MT Competitor Guide or Manual or watch these Editing Video Tutorials
Fill our your details and then save as a .jpg image file to upload into your video

https://students.mq.edu.au/study/graduate-research/3-minute-thesis-competition
Submitting your entry

You need to submit:
• your video as a **vimeo** link
• your two slides (title slide and 3MT slide)

To get a vimeo link:

1. Create a **free** vimeo account at [vimeo.com](http://vimeo.com)
2. Upload your video
3. Give your video a title: Name_3MT Title
   • eg JulietLum_TomatoesHelpWriters
4. Enter the details of your video
5. Vimeo will assign a link (URL) to your video.

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Key dates for 3MT 2022

Video submission **faculty** heat deadlines:

- **FSE**: Friday 11 August
- **FMHHS**: Thursday 24 August*
- **FoA**: Wednesday 23 August*
- **MQBS**: Friday 18 August

Talk to your school/dept Directors of Research Training if you want to enter

- **31 Aug**: Faculties each submit (up to) 3 finalists to MQ 3MT Finals
- **7 Sep**: Screening of Finalists’ video submissions
- **15 Sep**: 2023 Virtual Asia-Pacific 3MT video submission deadline
- **18 Oct**: 2023 Virtual Asia-Pacific 3MT Competition

* TBC

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3MT or VYT feedback and practice

Book a personalised feedback or discussion session on your 3MT or VYT presentation with a Graduate Research Development Advisor:

Dr Francesca Mataraga (HASS)
francesca.mataraga@mq.edu.au

Dr Frank Song (HASS)
frank.song@mq.edu.au

Dr Chris Bilsland (Professional Development)
christine.bilsland@mq.edu.au

Dr Megan Brewer (STEMM)
megan.brewer@mq.edu.au

Away 29 June – 21 July

GRD Team Email
gr.development@mq.edu.au
Good luck!

Megan Brewer, PhD
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Graduate Research Academy
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