

## 8th Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT) by Coimbra Group

In 2008, the University of Queensland (Australia) held a competition called “Three Minute Thesis” (3MT) in which PhD students had to explain their research in three minutes in a video, to a non-expert audience with only one slide, from a static position. Since then, the 3MT competition has become a global phenomenon and has been held in multiple institutions worldwide.

The 3MT challenges PhD students to present their research in English within three minutes, to a general audience. Therefore, the 3MT supports PhD students’ work and encourages them to talk about their research and the importance it has for the community. In Europe, this contest is organized by the Coimbra Group, a European association of high level multidisciplinary European universities. The University of Barcelona, as a Coimbra Group member, has been invited to participate in the contest.

The contest has three stages. In the first one, the candidates must record the video and register in the contest. The UB will select the best candidates for the second stage, in which the participants will attend the UB institutional final, where the winner will get an iPad. Only in case of accredited illness, participants will be able to follow and participate online in the live event. Last, the winner of the UB final will take part in a selection process to attend the final gala of the Coimbra group.

Regardless of your research area, do not hesitate and take part in this contest to share your research worldwide!

### CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION:

#### 1. What can I do to participate in the contest?

To participate, you must follow the steps for the first stage.

**STAGE 1:** Read the participation conditions, the recommendations by the jury and the evaluation criteria regarding the video recording. You can get some ideas from the [videos](#) other 3TM participants submitted in the website of the University of Queensland or the last year UB [winner](#). Once the video is recorded, publish it on YouTube and fill in the online registration [form](#). The deadline is 3 March 2024 [11:59 pm].

**STAGE 2:** A jury named by the UB Doctoral School will choose the authors of the best published videos. Experts in communication skills will watch all the participants’ videos and give some tips to improve their presentations for the UB Final that will be held on 18 March. Only in case of accredited illness, participants will be able to follow and participate online in the live event. They will again present their thesis in three minutes in front of the jury and will record it again. The best one will be given a UB prize –an



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iPad- and will take part in the Coimbra Group final. The video to be sent to Coimbra Group will be the one chosen in the UB institutional final. The runner-up will receive an external storage.

**STAGE 3:** The Doctoral Studies Working Group of the Coimbra Group will choose three finalists at a European scale. During the Coimbra Group Annual General Assembly, which will take place in Turku on 6 June, the three international finalists will compete in a face-to-face session. The Executive Board of the Coimbra Group will award the winners (prize to be decided). If one of the finalists is from the UB, the University of Barcelona will defray the trip expenses and accommodation for two nights.

## 2· Information regarding the video making

### 2.1 Conditions of participation

- Only one registration and one video per person are allowed.
- Participants must be enrolled in a doctoral programme at the University of Barcelona when submitting their videos.
- Videos must be in English.
- Any area of knowledge is accepted for the videos.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes and competitors exceeding 3 minutes will be disqualified.
- The video must be filmed from a static position and no camera movements or effects may be used.
- A single static slide is allowed (no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description). The winner will be asked to send to the UB the slide in a separate PDF file.
- Audio has to be continuous, without edits, alterations, cuts, breaks, etc.
- No additional electronic media (e.g., sound and video files) are permitted within the video recording.
- Additional props are not allowed (e.g., costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment, animated background, laser pointer).
- Presentations have to be speech-like (e.g., no poems, raps or songs).
- Registration form is required.

### 2.2 Recommendations from the jury:

- Use some hook to attract the audience quickly. A hook is something that creates intrigue, suspense or raises a question in the audience's mind. You can also make a question at the beginning.
- Think about how you are going to stand and deliver your speech. Your body language is important, don't over-gesticulate, but don't be too stiff... Practising in front of people will help.



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- Use the right voice tone. Even a 3-minute presentation can be boring if delivered in a monotone.
- Practise as much as you have to.

### 3· Judging criteria:

#### Comprehension and content

- The presentation provided clear background and significance to the research question.
- The presentation clearly described the research strategy/design and the results/findings of the research.
- The presentation clearly described the conclusions, outcomes and impact of the research.

Scholarly and scientific research is at the core of the activity. The findings, results and the evidence for them must play a significant role in the presentation. Mere claims and overstatements of any kind regarding the scientific findings and their consequences or relevance must be avoided.

#### Engagement and communication

- The presentation was delivered clearly, and the language was appropriate for a non-specialist audience.
- The PowerPoint slide was well defined and enhanced the presentation: it must be clear, readable and concise.
- The presenter conveyed enthusiasm for their research and captured and maintained the audience's attention.

### 4· Registration

- Videos have to be uploaded to YouTube as public.
- Each participant must complete an [online form](#) before 3 March 2024 [11:59pm], indicating the public link to the YouTube video and the title of the presentation.

### 5· Legal rules

**GENERAL RULES:** Participants accept providing the corresponding authorizations to disseminate the works through any media related to the University of Barcelona. By taking part, all participants fully accept the conditions of the contest, as well as the organization's resolution regarding any problem which is not provided for in these rules, following the most appropriate criteria. Communication channels of the contest so far are the [website of the project](#) and the [Twitter account of La UB Divulga](#). Communication with participants will be done through the email address they submit in their registration.

**RULES FOR VIDEO SUBMITTING:** If the slide for the presentation – if one is used – shows recognizable people, participants need written authorization to share this image. In the



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case of people under 18, participants guarantee they obtained the permission written by the parents or legal tutors to use the image. The organization reserves the right to request the authorization to use the images, which the participant should present if his/her work is selected. The UB does not assume third party claims regarding the submitted works. Participants are fully responsible for the content of the video they submit to the competition and guarantee the videos are theirs or that they have the required rights to use them in the contest. The organization reserves the right to exclude videos that do not fulfil the requirements, or that may be offensive due to its content or any other reason, or if the organization believes it may create any kind of damage.

**DIFFUSION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS:** Those interested in taking part in this contest, by providing their works, authorize the UB to use them, exploit and share them, with no temporary or territorial limitation, in promotional and advertising activities, as well as in all initiatives launched by the UCC+I and the Doctoral School to promote cultural science and value research. If the organization wishes to use the submitted works outside this field, it will request the author's authorization. The organization reserves the right to publish the name and surname of the winners and the possibility of using the image in all the activities related to the prize and those with promotional or advertising purposes in the contest, without the winners receiving any kind of compensation.

**TACIT ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES AND EXEMPTION OF LIABILITY:** The participation in this contest implies the acceptance of all conditions. The organization reserves the right to extend or modify the bases, and even to cancel the contest or leave it without effect, as long as there is a justified cause. The modifications of these bases would be effective three days after being published. The organization is exempt from any obligation or compensation to the participants if, due to major forces, legal obligations or other criteria from the organization, the contest should be canceled. The participants would have a three-day period to leave the contest or take the right actions due to the added extension or modification. The organization is not responsible for Internet errors or bad service of the server where the YouTube video will be stored. The organization reserves the right to disqualify any participant who cheats, alters or renders the functioning of the contest useless, or adds offensive or violent comments that violate the dignity or decorum, or can offend someone's sensitivities.

**PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION:** Personal data will be added to the corresponding file of the University of Barcelona to use it only for purposes that result from the activities of the Scientific Culture and Innovation Unit (UCC+I) and the Doctoral School. People included in the scope of the application of the Organic Law 15/1999, 13 December, on



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personal data protection, can exercise their rights of access, rectification, cancellation and opposition by contacting the Scientific Culture and Innovation Unit (UCC+I).



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