

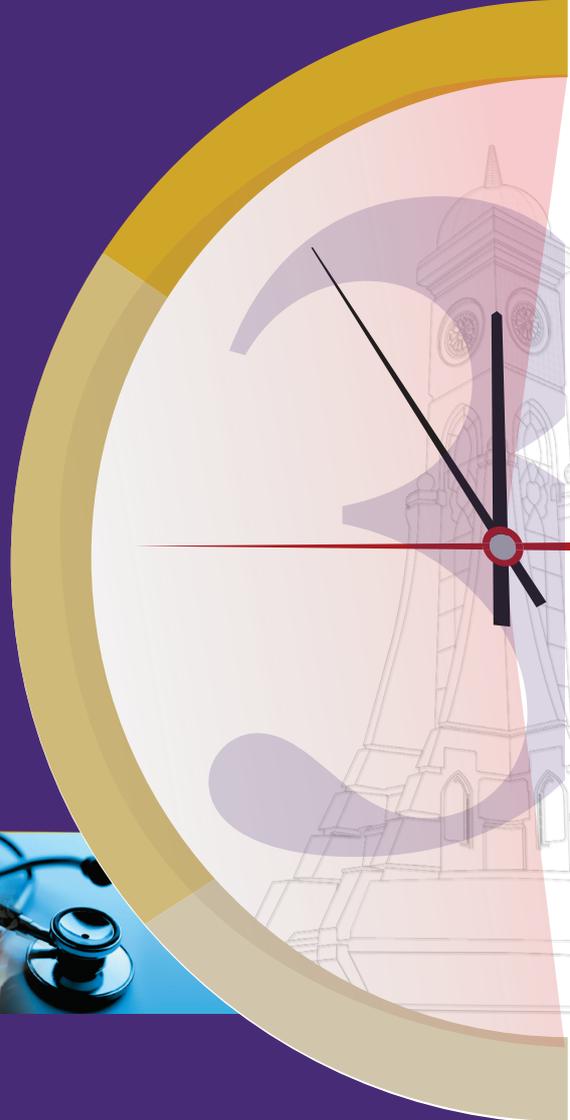


Sultan Qaboos University  
Deanship of Postgraduate Studies

3  
MIN

# Thesis Competition

A Scientific Communication  
Competition at Sultan  
Qaboos University



# 3 Minute Thesis Competition

The 3 minute Thesis Competition (3MT™) was originally developed by the University of Queensland in Australia to allow thesis-based graduate students to deliver a compelling presentation on their research and its significance in less than three minutes. From a few competitors in 2008 at the University of Queensland in Australia, the competition rapidly gained a national status.

Today, there are 3MT university competitions in more than 120 universities across 19 countries including several national competitions (Canada, Australia, Vietnam, UK).



Three Minute Thesis competition  
<http://threeminutethesis.org>

# 3 Minute Thesis competition at Sultan Qaboos University

Three Minute Thesis competition at Sultan Qaboos University  
<http://www.squ.edu.om/ps/3mt>



The Academic Council approved a proposal to hold the first 3 Minute Thesis Competition at Sultan Qaboos University during the 2015-2016 academic year.

## Competition outline

There will be an Arabic competition for students enrolled in programs where the main teaching language is Arabic and a second one in English for students enrolled in programs taught in English.

## Eligibility Criteria

All Sultan Qaboos University graduate students who are enrolled in a thesis-based Master's or PhD program or who graduated from such programs less than one year from the last date of application submission are eligible.

Master's students need to have presented the "second" seminar of

their program and doctoral students must have completed at least 2 years of research towards their degree in order to be eligible to compete.

## Applications' Schedule

The date of applications' submission will be announced on the DPS website and by students' e-mail

## Awards

In addition to a certificate of participation, in each competition, 3 awards will be conferred:

1. Best presentation award
2. Runner up (second best presentation) award
3. People's award

# Rules

## Rules of the Competition

The 3MT competition is based on eight rules that are applied and enforced very strictly.

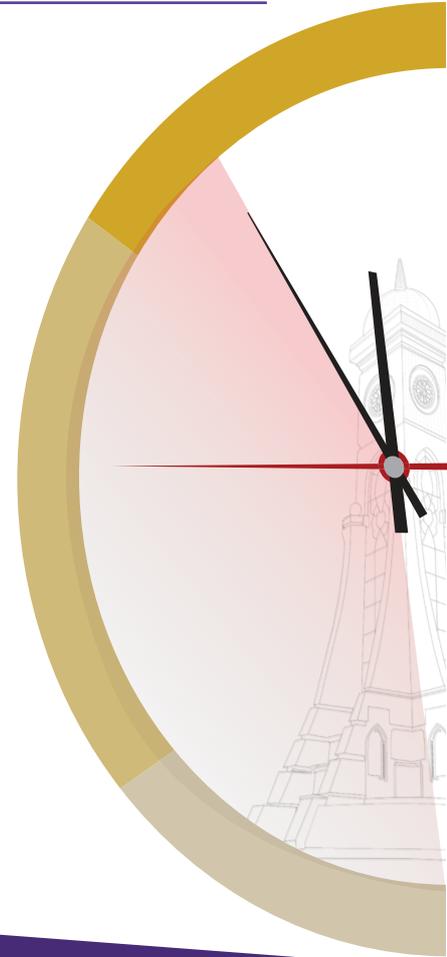
1. A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or movement of any description are allowed. The slide is to be presented from the beginning of the presentation.
2. No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
3. No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
4. Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are automatically disqualified.
5. Presentations are to be spoken words (eg. no poems, or songs).
6. Presentations are to commence

from the stage.

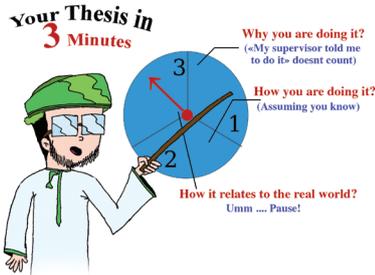
7. Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through either movement or speech.
8. The decision of the judging panel is final.

## In addition

Candidates have to agree to be video-recorded. Any data, results, or concepts included in the presentations may be made publicly accessible by the University (for instance on its web site). If the research is part of a consultancy with the student's supervisor, a written agreement of the sponsor will be necessary. Sultan Qaboos University may take photographs, videotapes or audiotapes of the presentation or copies of the material used during the presentations can be used for promotional purposes.



# Criteria



The 3MT competition is about communicating and explaining research and its significance to a non-specialist audience. The judges will represent a variety of specializations and will use the same audience based criteria for each presentation:

## Comprehension & Content

- Did the presentation help the audience understand the research and its significance?
- Did the presenter outline the

nature and aim of the research?

- Did the presentation clearly describe the key results of the research including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Was the thesis topic, key results and research significance and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to non-specialist audience?
- Did the presenter avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did the presenter 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 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 presenter 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 and was it clear, legible, and concise?

# Organization

Because graduate programs at SQU are offered in two languages, the 3 min thesis competition will be held in two languages in parallel. The language of presentation will be that of the program in which the student is registered.

Two distinct competitions will be organized with two judging panels, although some members of the panels may be shared. The judging panels will include 3 members and a chair and include at least one member from the “publication and outreach” department of the University. The other members should be appointed from the pool of graduate faculty of the University

There is a workshop will be organized prior to the competition to ensure that clear understanding of the criteria to be used by all members of the

judging panels in the competition. A coordinator will be specially appointed to provide the panels with technical assistance which include preparation of evaluation sheets, collection of evaluation sheets, tally of presenter’s scores, etc.

The competition will be held every year to coincide with the **Celebrations of SQU University Day** and a detailed calendar published at the time of the registration in **December** of each year.

During the competition, the position of the presenters will be determined by random draw and announced the day of the competition. Each presenter will be equipped with a cordless lapel microphone and shown a countdown timer (from 3.00 min. to 0.0 minutes). A large screen will show the slide provided by the presenter or a neutral slides should the presenter choose to not use a slide.

**A 60 000 word thesis would take about 6 hours to present....**



**They have  
3 minutes**