



## **University of Notre Dame: Information Packet**

Created by:

The University of Queensland <http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/three-minute-thesis>  
Modified for the University of Notre Dame

### **Event Overview**

#### **About 3MT**

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition celebrates the exciting research being conducted by Ph.D. candidates. Developed by The University of Queensland (UQ), the exercise cultivates student's 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.

#### **History**

The first 3MT® competition was held at University of Queensland (UQ) in 2008 with 160 research higher degree students competing. In 2009 and 2010, the 3MT® competition was promoted to other Australian and New Zealand universities and enthusiasm for the concept grew. Due to its adoption in numerous universities, a multi-national event was developed, and the Inaugural Trans-Tasman 3MT® competition was held at UQ in 2010.

Since 2011 the popularity of the competition has increased and 3MT® competitions are now held in over 170 universities across more than 18 countries worldwide.

## Why Participate?

### Skills development for Ph.D.

The exercise develops academic, presentation and research communication skills, while developing Ph.D.'s candidates ability to effectively explain their research in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

### Building research culture in schools and institutes

3MT® provides a valuable opportunity for Ph.D. candidates to come together, get to know one another, and talk about their research. It also provides a supportive environment in which Schools and Institutes can provide presentation skills training.

### Building external relations for the university

3MT® winners may go on to represent their university at a regional 3MT® competition which provides an excellent networking and professional development opportunity. Previous 3MT® finalists have benefited from invitations to a variety of other networking events following their participation in the competition.

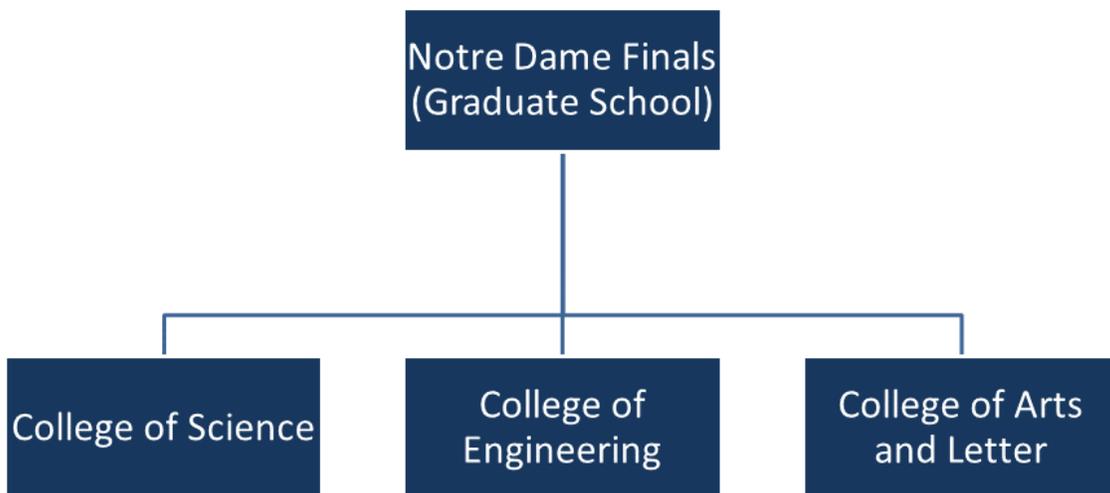
### Prizes

Prizes are an important incentive for candidates entering the competition. The Graduate School at the University of Notre Dame will award the following prizes:

- **College Qualifying Heats (February 27-March 2, 2017):**
  - *Three winners from each College (Science, Engineering, and Arts & Letters). The three winners will represent their College at the Final 3MT® event*
  - Three Finalists will receive \$100 each
  
- **Final 3MT® event (March 23, 2017):**
  - First Prize: \$2000, Will represent Notre Dame at the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) 3MT® Regional Conference
  - Second Prize: \$1500
  - People's Choice: \$1000

## Progression

There will be two 3MT® competition levels: College and Graduate School. The top 3 contestants from each College will compete in the final Graduate School competition. The following chart outlines the progression of competitors throughout the competition.



Please Note:

The winner of each heat or final is expected to represent their College/University at the next stage of competition. If the winner is unable to attend the final, the runner-up will proceed to the next round of the competition in their place.

## **Competition Rules & Guidelines**

### **Eligibility**

Active Ph.D. candidates who have passed their candidacy exams\* in the Colleges of Engineering, Science, and Arts & Letters by the date of their first presentation are eligible to participate in 3MT® competitions at all levels. Ph.D. students who have graduated from the University are not eligible.

\*The candidacy exam is a university requirement and its passing is monitored by the graduate school. If you have questions on eligibility, please see page 32 of the Graduate School Bulletin on the 3mt.nd.edu website.

\*\*Returning competitors presentations must be substantially different from previous presentations.

### **Professional Development**

Students participating in 3MT® will be expected to attend 1 Professional Development workshop of their choosing in order to be eligible for division qualifying heats. Workshops offered are as follows:

- “Distilling Your Scholarly Research in a 3MT® Format”
- “Stage Presence: Drawing in Your Audience”
- “Once Upon a Time: Storytelling as a Tool for Teaching & Learning”
- “Improv for Scholars – Utilizing Improvisation Techniques to Connect with an Audience”
- “One Button Studio – Virtual Coaching for 3MT®”

Students may register for workshops at the Professional Development [events portal](#).

## Rules

- 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 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 either movement or speech.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

## Static Slide

- Please submit a single static slide for your presentation to grad careers ([gradcareers@nd.edu](mailto:gradcareers@nd.edu)) by midnight on February 14, 2017 for the college competition and by midnight on March 9, 2017 for the finals.
- After all slides have been submitted, presentation order will be generated at random.

## Judging Criteria

At every level of the competition each competitor will be assessed on the judging criteria listed below. Rubric that will be utilized by judges is on the [3mt.nd.edu](http://3mt.nd.edu) website.

Please note: Each criterion is equally weighted and has an emphasis on audience.

## Comprehension & Content

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background to the research question being addressed and its significance?
- 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 a non-specialist audience?
- Did the speaker 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 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 generalize 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?

## **Event Specifics**

### **College Heats - February 27-March 2, 2017**

Qualifying Heats will be run within each College on an assigned day (Science, Engineering, and Arts & Letters).

3 judges will determine three finalists who will move on to the Finals.

Number of students allowed to participate will be at the discretion of the Colleges. In the case that there are more applications than openings by the college, participant selection will be based on "Last Application In, First Application Out."

### **Final event - March 23, 2017, 4pm**

The Final event will be at Jordan Auditorium, 9 participants.

Judges will determine 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> round prizes for the competition.

Audience will vote on a People's Choice Award. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner will not be eligible for People's Choice Award.

Networking reception to follow awarding of prizes.

All graduate students are welcome and encouraged to attend the Final event.

### **Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) 3MT® Regional Conference**

1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner will represent the University of Notre Dame at the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) 3MT® Regional Conference on April 6-7. Details subject to change.

## **The Judging Panel**

Qualifying Heats will include four judges.

Final Event will include five judges.

As judges are confirmed, the website will be updated with the names of the judges.

## **Three Minute Countdown**

Students will be provided a visual cue (such as raising a visible yellow card in the air) to illustrate a 30 second warning, and ringing a bell at the final three-minute mark. Going over the allotted three minutes results in automatic disqualification from the competition.

## **Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Guidelines**

- The 3MT® presentation must represent the original research of the competitor.
- The authors of the 3MT® presentation will retain all rights regarding its use at all times prior to and following the competition except as stated below.
- Due to the nature of the competition, we will not ask judges, reviewers, staff or the audience to agree to or sign non-disclosure statements for any participant.
- All public sessions of the competition, including but not limited to oral presentations, are open to the public at large. Any and all of these public sessions may be broadcast to interested persons through media which may include the Internet.
- Any data or information discussed or divulged in public sessions by entrants should be considered information that will likely enter the public realm, and entrants should not assume any right of confidentiality in any data or information discussed, divulged or presented in these sessions. This means, if your research includes commercial-in-confidence or culturally sensitive material you should think very carefully about how you can present this information. We advise that you discuss your competition entry with the party/ies before entering the 3MT® competition.
- The University of Notre Dame 3 Minute Thesis Competition may make photocopies, photographs, videotapes and/or audiotapes of the presentations or material prepared for use in presentation at the 3MT® competition.

Based on and Adapted from University of Melbourne

[http://www.cshe.unimelb.edu.au/prof\\_dev/grad\\_researchers/3MT/rulesguides.html](http://www.cshe.unimelb.edu.au/prof_dev/grad_researchers/3MT/rulesguides.html)

## **Further Information**

If you have questions about 3MT® please review the 3MT® website <http://3mt.nd.edu/>

Email [gradcareers@nd.edu](mailto:gradcareers@nd.edu)