

QU 3MT and National 3MT Competition

The 3MT Competition is an academic competition that challenges Masters and PhD students to describe their thesis/dissertation research within three minutes to a general audience. This important competition celebrates the discoveries made by research students and encourages them to communicate the importance of their research to the broader community. At a national level, the event aims to celebrate Qatar's growth in graduate education over the last decade as well as providing a national stage for Qatar's best and brightest graduate researchers.

All higher education institutions in Qatar that offer thesis-based graduate programs are invited to participate in the National 3MT.

Event Objectives:

Besides the learning opportunities this event provides to graduate students in Qatar, the National 3MT Competition aims to:

- celebrate graduate students' achievements in research
- promote the many graduate programs available right here in Qatar
- encourage and inspire prospective students to join a graduate program in Qatar
- facilitate and strengthen collaboration among universities

3MT Prizes:

QU 3MT:

The QU 3MT will be held on Monday, May 20, 2024 in the Auditorium of the Research Complex (H10). The top three winners from QU will advance on to the National 3MT Competition to compete against finalist from other universities in Qatar.

- First place: Certificate, Trophy, 15 points for Distinguished Grad Student Criteria
- Second Place: Certificate, Trophy, 15 points for Distinguished Grad Student Criteria
- Third Place: Certificate, Trophy, 15 points for Distinguished Grad Student Criteria

*Deadline to receive nominations from colleges: May 9, 2024

National 3MT:

The National 3MT Competition will be held early October 2024 (date: TBD) and the location will be announced later on.

- Grand Prize 15,000QR, certificate, trophy
- First Runner-Up 10,000QR, certificate, trophy
- Second Runner-Up 7,000QR, certificate, trophy

- People's Choice Award (voted on by the audience)

*Announcement of National finalists is early August 2024 (date: TBD)

QU 3MT and National 3MT winners will be presented with a certificate and trophy by the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at the Qatar University Annual Research Forum (QUARF).

3MT and National 3MT Competition General Rules

*Presentations can be in Arabic or English.

ELIGIBILITY:

Any student currently enrolled in a graduate program (with a thesis/dissertation track) based in the State of Qatar is eligible to participate in the 3MT Competition. Additionally, students should have completed the data analysis of the thesis/dissertation research in order to participate. Students who have graduated during the 2023-2024 academic year are also eligible.

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 presentation).
- 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 judges' panel is final.

3MT JUDGING CRITERIA:

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

- 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?

To view sample 3MT presentations from previous winners, please visit

<https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/watch-3mt>

For more information on the history and rules of the 3MT competition, please visit

<https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/>

For additional questions, please contact:

Graduate Learning Support (GLS),
Office of Graduate Studies
Old Education Building (B04)
Qatar University
glg@qu.edu.qa