

INVITATION

College of Graduate Studies

School of Interdisciplinary Research & Graduate Studies (SIRGS)



THREE MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition is an annual research contest held by more than 900 universities worldwide.

It is a research communication competition developed by the University of Queensland in Australia, in which doctoral students are given three minutes to present their research. The competition cultivates academic, presentation and research communication skills in postgraduate students. Furthermore, it challenges the doctoral students to communicate the significance of their projects and results to a non-specialist audience in a language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience.

All eligible doctoral students will participate at the institutional level. The 3MT national competition will be hosted by the University of Free State on 23 October 2026 in Bloemfontein. For students to participate in the National 3MT, they should be winners at the institutional level. Only the best and runner-up winners are eligible to participate at the national level.

ELIGIBILITY

- Only UNISA-registered doctoral candidates who have successfully obtained ethical clearance and submitted the intention to submit form by the date of their first presentation (final writing up of thesis submission) are eligible to participate in the 3MT competition.
- UNISA staff members registered for a doctoral qualification with UNISA do not qualify.
- Students who are staff members at their institution but registered with a different university for their postgraduate studies. They participate in their registered university.
- PhD graduates or candidates who have received their doctoral results are not eligible.
- **NOTE:** Confirmation of the supervisor will be sought for all candidates.

RULES

- Only a single static PowerPoint slide is permitted.
- No slide transitions, animations or movement of any description are allowed.
- The slide should 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 three minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations should be spoken words (e.g., no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations should 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.

If you are interested and meet the eligibility requirements to participate in the 3MT, you can apply to be trained by submitting a one-page abstract. You qualify to participate only once. You can email the 3MT abstract with the title, your name, student number, 2026 proof of registration and supervisor's email address to showcase@unisa.ac.za. The students with the best abstracts will be trained to prepare a three-minute oral presentation.

ENQUIRIES

Prof Khanyisile R. Mbatha
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DUE DATE: Thursday, 2 July 2026



Define tomorrow.

UNISA

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graduate studies