3MT® (Three Minute Thesis) 2017

The 3MT® competition offers PhD students the opportunity to engage an audience and judging panel of school pupils, general public and industry with their research and its potential impact in just three minutes!

Communicating to different audiences helps you to demonstrate the contribution that your work could make to wider society and the economy. This is your chance to engage and enthuse a range of learners about research and, especially in the case of high school learners, perhaps even inspire them to attend a research rich institution in the future.

Developing your skills
Participation in 3MT® provides an opportunity to develop your presentation and research communication skills and supports the development of your capacity to effectively explain your research in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience. Along with members of the public and local schools, our 3MT® 2017 finalists will present to a judging panel of impact specialists, business managers, and high school students

Here's what our 2016 Winner, Kuntal Singh (Biology) said:
"3MT® was a valuable experience and helped me introspect on my work deeply. Condensing my thesis in 3 minutes was a tough challenge but the 3MT® training and the subsequent competition helped me articulate clearly the main aims and results of my thesis. This competition also gave me good experience of presenting my results to a non-scientific audience as well as gave me confidence on public speaking."

Who is eligible?
University of York PhD research students

How to apply?
Complete the online 3MT Proposal, which must include a proposal title and a short lay summary/abstract (500 words) of your research and its potential impact on the economy/society by 03 April 2017. Applications will be reviewed by a panel of engagement specialists and a selection of the entries will be chosen to audition with a 3 minute presentation and a slide representing their message on 19 April 2017.

Selection for the final
Ten finalists will be selected from the auditions to take part in the University of York 3MT® 2017 final on Tuesday 13 June 2017. Training in public engagement and presentation skills will be provided for the chosen finalists and will take place on Friday 26 May 2017.

3MT® 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) or props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes 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 and are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through either movement or speech.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

Prizes
There will be prizes for first (iPad), second (Amazon Vouchers) and third (Amazon Vouchers) place.

In association with

[Logos and names of associated organizations]
Judging Criteria
At every level of the competition each competitor will be assessed on the judging criteria. 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 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 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?

UK 3MT® 2017 semi-final (online) and final
The winner of the York 3MT® 2016 final will enter a video of their presentation into the Vitae hosted UK 3MT® 2017 semi-final (by 07 July 2017). Six finalists will then be selected to perform live in the UK 3MT® 2017 final during the gala dinner at the Vitae Researcher Development International Conference, in Birmingham, on 11 September 2017.

Falling Walls Lab 2017
York 3MT® 2017 finalists will be invited to follow up training and encouraged to enter the Falling Walls Lab York on 23 June 2017. The winner of the Falling Walls Lab York will receive a prize and represent the University at the Falling Walls Lab Finale and Conference in Berlin on 08/09 November 2017. Travel and accommodation form part of the prize.

YGRS PGR Induction Event
York 3MT® 2017 finalists will be invited to perform at the York Graduate Research School (YGRS) Post Graduate Researcher (PGR) Induction event in September 2017.

Timeline and Important Dates
- 17 February & 22 March 2017: Preparing for 3MT® information sessions
- 03 April 2017: Closing date for entries
- 10 April 2017: Short-listed applicants informed
- 19 April 2017: Audition event (RCSS Training Room, 9am – 5pm)
- 03 May 2017: Successful applicants informed
- 26 May 2017: Training session for finalists (Heslington Hall H/G17, 9am – 4pm)
- 13 June 2017: University of York 2017 3MT® final (National Science Learning Centre)
- 16 June 2017 Falling Walls York Lab Training
- 07 July 2017: UK 2017 3MT® semi-final (online) video submission
- 11 September 2017: UK 2016 3MT® final (Vitae conference)
- September 2017: YGRS Induction Event
- 08/09 November 2017 Falling Walls Lab Finale and Conference, Berlin

Please contact the Research Excellence Training Team rett@york.ac.uk with any enquiries.