



2017

Three Minute Thesis Postgraduate Research Competition

The Postgraduate School, Free State University would like to extend an invitation to enter your Institution into the Second National 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition, which will take place on **24 March 2017** at the **Equitas Auditorium** on the **University of the Free State's campus** from **11:00 to 15:00**. The competition is part of the school's initiative to showcase postgraduate research across universities.

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) is an academic competition developed by the University of Queensland (UQ), Australia, and has since developed into a national competition across Australia. The concept has grown exponentially since its launch and has been adopted in 18 countries outside Australia. Essentially, participants are given three minutes to explain the essence of their research. The presentation should cover their **research problem, how they tackle it and why it matters**. Participants are allowed one static visual aid – for instance a PowerPoint slide, or a photograph.

The Three Minute Thesis competition develops academic, presentation, and research communication skills and supports the development of research students' capacity to effectively explain their research in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience. Besides being great fun, the value of the 3MT competition lies in how it obliges participants to elucidate with precision several of the key dimensions of a thesis– a type of clarity that many postgraduates find difficult to attain. Additionally, it gives the opportunity for postgraduates across the country to interact with their peers from other institutions. Students can enter in a STEM Sciences or Humanities/Social Sciences stream.

To align this years' 3MT competition with the international standards, the competition will only be open to **registered PhD students** at an accredited South African University. Interested universities are advised to hold their own local competitions and enter their PhD winners into the national competition. Documents that will assist the universities in aligning their local competition with the national and international standard, as require by the Queensland University, as well as the documents that will assist with carrying out the local 3MT will be sent upon registration of the Institution. Should you wish to register your institution into the Third National South African Three Minute Thesis Competition 2017, be advised that the closing date for registration is **3 March 2017**. Participating universities will have to send the names of their winners to the organising committee by **10 March 2017**.

The minimum cash prizes will be as follows for each of the streams:

Winner = R 15 000
1st Runner up = R 10 000
2nd Runner up = R 5 000

There is no entry fee and PhD students of registered universities are required to submit their presentations and abstracts by 10 March 2017. To register please email Emmie Smit at SmitEJ@ufs.ac.za

Previous competitions of the 3MT may be viewed at:

- University of the Free State - <http://postgraduate.ufs.ac.za/content.aspx?id=20>
- International
 - <http://threeminutethesis.org>
 - <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/three-minute-thesis-competition>
 - http://www.research.uky.edu/gs/StudentDevelopment/3MT_Competition.html

Please note: Candidates will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements/expenses.