The 2015-16 Three Minute Thesis Competition for IU Bloomington

Registration Due: Monday, February 1, 2016

Purpose and Eligibility for the Three Minute Thesis Competition for IU Bloomington

Three Minute Thesis (3MT) is a research communication competition developed by the University of Queensland in 2008. The exercise challenges Masters and PhD students to present a compelling oration on their thesis topic and its significance in just three minutes.

IU Bloomington will host its inaugural Three Minute Thesis Competition on Thursday, February 11, 2016. Heats will begin at 6:00pm. In order to register for this competition, applicants must submit an application through the online registration link: http://tinyurl.com/IUB3MT2016

Stipends will be awarded to the top three speakers and will include:
- First Place $250
- Second Place $150
- Third Place $50

The first place winner will be put forward to the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) on April 6-8th 2016. Further details regarding the MAGS 3MT competition will be provided at a later date.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Active Masters, PhD and Professional Doctorate (Research) candidates who have successfully passed their confirmation milestone (including candidates whose thesis is under submission) by the date of their first presentation are eligible to participate in 3MT competition. Graduates are not eligible.

Rules

1. 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.
2. No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
3. No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
4. Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
5. Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
6. Presentations are to commence from the stage.
7. Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through either movement or speech.
8. The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.
Judging Criteria

1. Comprehension & Content
   a) Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background to the research question being addressed and its significance?
   b) Did the presentation clearly describe the key results of the research including conclusions and outcomes?
   c) Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
   d) Was the thesis topic, key results and research significance and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
   e) Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
   f) 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?

2. Engagement & Communication
   a) Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
   b) Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or generalize their research?
   c) Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
   d) Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
   e) Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
   f) Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?

Registration Process

A completed application, submitted via the online registration link contains:

1. Contact and student information
2. A brief abstract of thesis, not to exceed 250 words

All materials are to be submitted no later than 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) on Monday, February 1, 2016 by clicking here:

http://tinyurl.com/IUB3MT2016
Where is the registration form located?

The registration form is located on the University Graduate School webpage and at this link: http://tinyurl.com/IUB3MT2016

How many stipend awards will be given?

A total of three (3) awards will be given—a first, second, and third place stipend award.

Is a student eligible if they are a doctoral candidate in a degree other than the Ph.D.?

Yes. Active PhD and Professional Doctorate (Research) candidates who have successfully passed their confirmation milestone (including candidates whose thesis is under submission) by the date of their first presentation are eligible to participate in 3MT competition. Graduates are not eligible.

Is a student eligible if they are a masters candidate?

Yes. Active Masters candidates who have successfully passed their confirmation milestone (including candidates whose thesis is under submission) by the date of their first presentation are eligible to participate in 3MT competition. Graduates are not eligible.

What is the registration deadline?

Monday, February 1, 2016.

Will additional documents, such as letters of recommendation or appendices be accepted?

Additional information will be requested from the first place winner to be submitted to the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools’ Three Minute Thesis competition.

How are the stipend award funds paid?

Stipend awards will be applied to the winning students’ bursar accounts for the semester that the competition takes place. This year’s stipend awards will be applied to the Spring 2016 semester.

Who is The University Graduate School contact, if I still have questions?

Please contact Dean Jeff Rutherford of the University Graduate School at (812) 855-4010 or by email at jruther@iu.edu or Julia Jennings at (812) 855-5697 or by email at jenningj@iu.edu.