

Three Minute Thesis Competition 2016

HEATS

Wed 11th May, 1500 - 1700 at City Campus, Owen 1028
Tues 24th May, 1000 - 1200 at Collegiate Campus, Main Bldg D005

FINAL

Wed 22nd June, 1430-1630 at City Campus
Incorporating Doctoral School Question Time and summer social



Three Minute Thesis (3MT) is a competition developed by the University of Queensland which challenges doctoral students to present a compelling spoken presentation on their research topic and its significance, in just three minutes.

Sheffield Hallam will be holding its 2016 3MT competition on Wednesday 22 June. As well as winning a **prize of £500** towards attending an academic conference of their choice, the winner will be put forward as SHU's entry to the UK national competition.

All you have to do is present your doctoral research topic to a mixed-disciplinary audience, using 1 side and in no more than 3 minutes.

We will be holding heats at both campuses, and you are welcome to participate in either heat. Three from each heat, plus the two highest-scoring runners up, will go through to SHU's final on 22 June.

Distance learners who are not able to attend either of the heats may submit their entry by video instead, which will then be played at one of the heats.

Eligibility

All Sheffield Hallam doctoral students who will not have had their viva by 22 June are eligible. You must be able to attend one of the heats taking place on Wednesday 11 May (1500-1700) or Tuesday 24 May (1000-1200) and the final on Wednesday 22 June, 1400-1600.

How to enter

Please email doctoralschool@shu.ac.uk **by Friday 29 April** to express an interest in participating, stating your name, Research Centre/ Faculty, thesis title and preferred heat.

What happens then?

You will then receive further guidance on preparing for the competition, and the format of the heats and final.

Why enter?

Three minute thesis is an excellent opportunity for doctoral researchers to develop their communication skills. It is also a unique chance for you to share your research and your passion for it with the broader research community, and raise your profile as a researcher both within and beyond the University.

Our 2015 competition saw some excellent presentations given by researchers from across the University. You can watch the SHU finalists on the Doctoral School site

<https://shdoctoralschool.wordpress.com/prospective-drs/doctoral-research-at-shu/>

The winner of SHU's 2015 competition, James Reynolds, reached the UK national finals. You can watch James's final presentation, along with those of the other national finalists, on the Vitae website

<https://www.vitae.ac.uk/events/three-minute-thesis-competition/3mt-finalists-2015>



Competition Rules

- You should present information on your doctoral research topic
- You should present for an intelligent lay audience
- Presentations must be no longer than 3 MINUTES - competitors exceeding 3 minutes will be instantly interrupted and not permitted to continue
- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description are allowed.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) is permitted
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted
- 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 adjudicating panel is final

Judging Criteria

Presentations will be judged on how well the entrant communicates their research subject and its importance. Presentations should cover what your research is, how you are doing it, what you have or hope to discover, and why it is an important contribution to knowledge. The research topic itself and any findings will not be taken into account. Therefore entrants from all disciplines and from any stage of their study will have an equal chance of winning.

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?

Related Terms and Conditions

- The institutional final will be filmed
- Other entrants and invited guests will also be in attendance
- The winner's film will be submitted to the national online semi-finals, taking place in July 2016
- If our entry to the national semi-finals is successful, the winner will be expected to attend the live UK final in Manchester on 12 September 2016. The University will cover travel costs.
- Individual doctoral students and Sheffield Hallam University will jointly own the resulting films from the institutional final. Both may freely use the films on websites/social media, but must reference the other and the 3MT competition where it is displayed. Students may veto the University using their film if they have any particular concerns
- The £500 prize must be utilised to attend an academic conference or equivalent before 31 July 2017. It may be used towards delegate fee, accommodation and travel costs only. The award is up to £500 and underspend cannot be paid directly to individuals. The sum may be spent on more than one conference during the stated period