



UNIVERSIDADE D  
**COIMBRA**



**University of Coimbra**  
**3 Minutes PhD Thesis Competition**

**Competition Rules**



## University of Coimbra 3 Minutes Thesis Competition – 3MT CG 2021/2022 Edition

### Background to the 3MT Competition

In 2008, the University of Queensland in Australia held a competition called ‘Three Minute Thesis’ (<http://threeminutethesis.org/start-3mt>) where Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) candidates explained their research to an ‘intelligent lay audience’ in three minutes with only one slide, in english. Over the following years, the 3MT competition has become a global phenomenon and has been held in multiple institutions across the world.

In June 2017, the [Coimbra Group](#) (CG) held its first 3MT final competition during the annual General Assembly at the University of Edinburgh.

Some CG member universities ask the winner and the runner up of their own competition to present their thesis annually at the university senate , university induction event for new doctoral researchers, as well as at other events. These presentations always receive positive feedback.

It is time for the University of Coimbra (UC) to take part in this competition, in order to celebrate the exciting research conducted by its PhD students. The third edition of the UC 3MT Competition will take place in 2021/2022.

### Why participate?

**Development of skills** Participating in 3MT develops academic, presentation and research communication skills, while developing research candidates’ ability to effectively explain their research in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

**Building research culture at the university** 3MT provides a valuable opportunity for PhD candidates to come together, get to know one another and talk about their research. It also provides a supportive environment in which universities can provide presentation skills training.

**Building external relations for the university** 3MT winners may go on to represent their university at CG 3MT competition which provides an excellent networking and professional development opportunity.

### Coimbra Group 3MT Competition Format

The CG 3MT final takes place at the CG Annual Conference. Prior to this, each participating university must select its best candidate and send a video recording of the presentation to the Doctoral Studies Working Group (DS WG), who will then select, from these videos, the 3 finalists who will compete in a live competition at the CG Annual Conference.

### Timeline

Dates	Information
December 13 <sup>th</sup> 2021	Phase I (Video presentation submission) opens
January 22 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Phase I closes
February 15 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Jury decision: 20 best presentations
February 21 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Training of 20 candidates (online)
March 11 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Phase 2 (Coimbra 3MT competition final with 20 candidates) – 3MT UC Finalist
March 31 <sup>st</sup> 2022	3MT UC Finalist video submission to Coimbra Group Final
April 5 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Phase 3 - DS WG members evaluation of top 3 candidates from Coimbra Group Universities
June 7 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Phase 4 - The Final 3MT Competition

## **RULES**

### **A. Eligibility**

All the PhD students enrolled in a Doctoral Program at the University of Coimbra are eligible for this competition. There are no restriction of age, gender or nationality.

### **B. Application**

The candidates should apply online using the form available in the following link: <https://ls.uc.pt/index.php/894937?lang=pt>.

The application includes filling the form, send a 3 minutes video and filling, signing and sending the GDPR/Image declaration.

The Application starts on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and ends on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.

### **C. Selection of the UC 3MT Competition finalists**

The jury will be constituted by 19 people and have gender and academic subject balance. The jury will select the best 20 presentations.

The judging criteria will be:

#### Comprehension

Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background and significance to the research topic being addressed, while explaining terminology and avoiding jargon?

Did the presentation clearly describe the impact and/or results of the research, including conclusions and outcomes?

Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?

Was the thesis topic, research significance, results/impact and outcomes communicated in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?

Did the presenters spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

#### Scientific content

Did the presentation address a research question?

Is the scientific content correct?

#### Engagement and communication

Did the talk make the audience want to know more?

Was the presenter careful not to trivialise or generalise his/her research?

Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for his/her research?

Did the presenter capture and maintain the audience's attention?

Did the presenter 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?

### **D. Selection of the finalist**

Phase 1) Pre-selection 1 (at UC)

The UC jury will select the best 20 videos submitted by the candidates.

Deadline: February 15<sup>th</sup> 2022.

Phase 2) Pre-selection 2 (at UC):

The selected candidates will participate in the UC 3M Thesis Training (8 hours total). This Training includes: Media Training, How to pitch an idea? and Design Thinking in Science Communication Projects.

The 20 candidates will participate in the UC 3MT Competition Final that will be held in the Almedina Hall of the Convent of São Francisco in Coimbra. The UC jury will select one UC 3MT Competition winner.

#### Phase 3) Pre-selection 3 (CG):

The UC 3MT Competition winner will have his/her video sent to be evaluated and to participate in the Coimbra Group Competition. If chosen by the Jury of the Coimbra Group, the UC winner has to participate in the Finals at the CG Annual Conference at the University of Montpellier, on 7-10 June 2022.

#### Phase 4) The Final 3MT Competition (CG):

Three Finalists, from 3 Universities of the CG, will participate in the Final 3MT Competition at the CG Annual Conference at the University of Montpellier.

### **E. During the Competition**

There are some rules that the competitors should follow during the competition:

1. Presentations are limited to 3 minutes and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
2. A single static slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description). As regards the video submitted to the CG Office, the slide must not be included/merged into the video, but must be submitted as a separate PDF file. A title slide containing the name of the university, the name of the contestant, the title of the presentation and the research area should be submitted along with the slide illustrating the talk.
3. The video must be filmed at an institutional live 3MT event, and not be a "studio" recording. It must have only one camera angle filmed from one static position. Zoom in and out from the static position is acceptable. The presentation by the doctoral researcher must stand for itself: oral introductions at the event shall not be included, nor any opening credits by the producers.
4. The 3-minute audio must be continuous – no cuts, edits, breaks, etc.
5. No additional props (e.g. laser pointer, costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment, animated backgrounds) are permitted.
6. Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
7. Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts the presentation through movement or speech.
8. No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted within the video recording.
9. Video submissions not following the rules above will not be accepted. A group of technical experts will decide upon such cases. Eligible videos will be judged by the jury. The jury's decision is definitive.

### **F. Prizes**

All the participants will receive a certificate.

If the UC winner is one of the three finalists selected to go to the Final 3MT Competition, all the expenses will be covered by the University of Coimbra.

### **G. Organization Committee at the University of Coimbra**

Ana Santos Carvalho – Instituto de Investigação Interdisciplinar, UC  
Sara Amaral – Centro de Neurociências e Biologia Celular, UC  
Joana Tereso – Divisão de Comunicação, UC  
Marta Costa – Divisão de Comunicação, UC  
Karine Paniza – Divisão de Comunicação, UC

### **H. Jury of the University of Coimbra**

1. Jury President: Cláudia Cavadas - Vice-Rector of the University of Coimbra

2. Alexandra Aragão – Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra
3. Ana Maria Teixeira – Faculty of Sport Sciences and Physical Education of the University of Coimbra
4. António Miguel Morgado – Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Coimbra
5. António Rafael Amaro – Institute of Interdisciplinary Research of the University of Coimbra
6. António Olaio – College of Arts of the University of Coimbra
7. Daniela Nascimento – Faculty of Economics of the University of Coimbra
8. Fernando Florêncio – Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Coimbra
9. Henrique Girão – Faculty of Medicine of the University of Coimbra
10. Henrique Madeira – Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Coimbra
11. Inês Amaral – Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra
12. Isabel Henriques – Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Coimbra
13. Joana Nunes da Costa – Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Coimbra
14. João Laranjinha – Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Coimbra
15. Marco Daniel de Almeida Pereira – Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences of the University of Coimbra
16. Maria Graça Carvalho – Institute of Interdisciplinary Research of the University of Coimbra
17. Marta Oliveira – Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Coimbra
18. Paulo Oliveira – Institute of Interdisciplinary Research of the University of Coimbra

## **I. Contacts**

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