

QU and National 3MT Competition

The 3MT Competition is an academic competition that challenges Masters and PhD students to describe their thesis/dissertation research within three minutes to a general audience. This important competition celebrates the discoveries made by research students and encourages them to communicate the importance of their research to the broader community. At a national level, the event aims to celebrate Qatar's growth in graduate education over the last decade as well as providing a national stage for Qatar's best and brightest graduate researchers.

All higher education institutions in Qatar that offer thesis-based graduate programs are invited to participate in the National 3MT.

Event Objectives:

Besides the learning opportunities this event provides to graduate students in Qatar, the National 3MT Competition aims to:

- celebrate graduate students' achievements in research
- promote the many graduate programs available right here in Qatar
- encourage and inspire prospective students to join a graduate program in Qatar
- facilitate and strengthen collaboration among universities

3MT Prizes:

QU 3MT:

The QU 3MT will be held on **Wednesday, May 20, 2026** in the Qatar University Library (B13) - Auditorium 117 (Female side). The top three winners from QU will advance on to the National 3MT Competition to compete against finalists from other universities in Qatar.

- First place: Certificate, Trophy, 15 points for Distinguished Grad Student Criteria
- Second Place: Certificate, Trophy, 15 points for Distinguished Grad Student Criteria
- Third Place: Certificate, Trophy, 15 points for Distinguished Grad Student Criteria

*Deadline for Associate Deans to nominate up to 3 student names to the Graduate Learning Support Office is **Thursday, May 14, 2026**.

National 3MT:

The National 3MT Competition will be held in Fall 2026 (date: TBD) and the location will be announced later on.

- Grand Prize 15,000QR, certificate, trophy
- First Runner-Up 10,000QR, certificate, trophy
- Second Runner-Up 7,000QR, certificate, trophy

- People's Choice Award (voted on by the audience)

*Deadline for announcement of national finalists is early August 2026 (date: TBD)

QU 3MT and National 3MT winners will be presented with a certificate and trophy by the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at the Qatar University Annual Research Forum (QUARF).

QU 3MT and National 3MT Competition General Rules

*Presentations can be in Arabic or English.

ELIGIBILITY:

Any student currently enrolled in a graduate program (with a thesis/dissertation track) based in the State of Qatar is eligible to participate in the 3MT Competition. Additionally, students should have completed the data analysis of the thesis/dissertation research in order to participate. Students who have graduated during the 2025-2026 academic year are also eligible.

3MT RULES:

- A **single** static PowerPoint slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description, the slide is to be presented from the beginning of the presentation).
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum 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.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through movement or speech.
- The decision of the judges' panel is final.

3MT JUDGING CRITERIA:

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

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or generalize 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?

To view sample 3MT presentations from previous winners, please visit

<https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/watch-3mt>

For more information on the history and rules of the 3MT competition, please visit

<https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/>

For additional questions, please contact:

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