



FAU Three Minute Thesis (3MT[®]) Coaches and Judges Handbook

Created by the University of Queensland (UQ)
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FAU 3MT[®] Championship
Friday, November 18th, 2016
Lifelong Learning Society, Boca Raton Campus

OVERVIEW

FAU's Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition

This Fall 2016, FAU's Graduate College will host the University's inaugural Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition. This exciting opportunity is open to any active FAU graduate student in good academic standing with the University. This competition provides all participants with a unique and invaluable professional development experience and Championship winners are awarded research scholarships and awards up to \$2,500, as well as travel expenses to the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) competition in March 2017.

Updated information on FAU's 3MT® Program is on our website here: <http://www.fau.edu/graduate/3MT.php>
For additional information, please email: 3mt@fau.edu.

History

The 3MT® competition celebrates the exciting research conducted by graduate students. Developed by The University of Queensland (UQ), the exercise cultivates students' academic, presentation, and research communication skills. The competition supports their capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes, in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

The first 3MT® Competition was held at the University of Queensland in 2008 with 160 students competing. In 2009 and 2010 the 3MT® competition was promoted to other Australian and New Zealand universities and enthusiasm for the concept grew. Since 2011 the popularity of the competition has increased and 3MT® competitions are now held in over 170 universities across more than 18 countries worldwide.

Fall 2016 Event Details

PRELIMINARY HEATS

WHEN: October 19 – 21, and November 3

WHERE: TBA

TIME:

- Wednesday, October 19: 10:00am – 12:00pm & 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- Thursday, October 20: 10:00am – 12:00pm, 2:00pm - 4:00pm, & 6:00pm – 8:00pm
- Friday, October 21: 10:00am – 12:00pm & 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- Thursday, November 3: Harbor Branch Campus, 4:00pm

PRELIMINARY HEAT SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS:

Heat Winner: \$1,000

First Runner-Up: \$500

People's Choice: \$500

Second Runner-Up: \$250

*Preliminary heat winners will advance to the championship on November 18, 2016.

CHAMPIONSHIP

WHEN: Friday, November 18, 2016

WHERE: Lifelong Learning Center, Boca Raton Campus

TIME: 5:30pm-8:00pm

SCHEDULE:

5:30pm – 6:00pm Registration

6:00pm – 7:00pm Competition

7:00pm – 8:00pm Award Ceremony and Reception

CHAMPIONSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS:

Championship Winner: \$2,500

First Runner-Up: \$1,500

People's Choice: \$1,500

Second Runner-Up: \$1,000

*Championship winner will receive an all-expense paid trip to the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) competition in March 2017.

***Overall Winner, First Runner-Up, and Second Runner-Up winners are also eligible to win the People's Choice Award for both the Preliminary Heats and the Championship. Additional prizes for preliminary heats and championships are to be announced.**

COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

Eligibility

FAU graduate students in good academic standing are eligible to participate in 3MT®.

Judging Criteria

At every level of the competition each competitor will be judged on the judging criteria listed below. Please note that each criterion is equally weighted and has an emphasis on audience.

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 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?

Rules

The following rules have been developed for all 3MT® competitions.

- 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 oration).
- 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 adjudicating panel is final.

COACHES

Coaches have the option of providing Individual or Group Coaching:

1. Individual Coaching

The frequency and style of coaching will be at the discretion of the coach and student competitor. An initial meeting should occur where this is discussed and agreed upon by the pair. Can be offered through phone, Skype, or in-person meetings.

2. Group Coaching

Student competitors will be coached in a group format. The frequency and style of coaching will be at the discretion of the coach.

Coaching Resources:

Coaches are encouraged to attend the September 28 Introduction to 3MT Competition Workshop in BU 120 at 2:00 p.m. Visit the [FAU 3MT website](#) for more information and to RSVP.

Coaching Expectations:

COMPETITORS

- Demonstrate professionalism. (Share availability and needs with coach, know your topic, be prompt and prepared for coaching sessions.)
- Review the rules and judging criteria for 3MT® competition.
- Share an outline of your research topic, methodology, and outcomes with your coach.
- Encouraged to meet with a coach a minimum of two times.

COACHES

- Review the rules and judging criteria for 3MT® competition.
- Review your student's research outline and provide feedback.
- Frequency and style of individual coaching is at the discretion of the coach and the student competitor. An initial meeting should occur where this is discussed and agreed upon by the pair or in a group setting.
- Completion of one feedback survey will be requested following final competition.
- Encouraged to meet with the competitor a minimum of two times.

If you are interested in assisting our student competitors throughout this experience by serving as an individual and/or group coach, please complete the coaching registration form here: fau.edu/graduate/3MT.php.

If you would like additional information about coaching opportunities, please contact us at 3mt@fau.edu.

JUDGES

Essential to the success of the 3MT® competition is the participation of presentation judges! At every level of the competition each competitor will be judged on the judging criteria listed below. Please note that each criterion is equally weighted and has an emphasis on audience.

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Judging workshops and support will be available. If you are interested in being a 3MT® judge, please contact 3mt@fau.edu.