



**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GRADUATE SCHOOL
THREE-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION GUIDELINES
(2018)**

The University of Maryland Graduate School invites post-candidacy doctoral students from all disciplines to compete in the annual Three-Minute Thesis Competition (3MT). The 3MT competition challenges students to communicate the significance of their research projects to a non-specialist audience in just three minutes. This competition provides a unique opportunity for students to demonstrate their ability to effectively explain their research to a general audience in an engaging and interesting manner.

The 3MT competition was first developed by the [University of Queensland](#) in 2008, and they have prepared a comprehensive set of rules and judging criteria. The UMD competition will employ these same guidelines. Please view the complete rules and judging criteria online at <http://threeminutethesis.org/rules-judging-criteria>.

The Graduate School is partnering with Graduate Student Government for this competition. The competition will take place during a two-week period in the Spring. **Starting on March 26, 2018**, the Graduate School will invite applicants to present their three-minute oral presentation to a campus committee. The committee will select up to 10 students to advance to the next step of the competition which will take place on **Graduate Research Appreciation Day (GRAD) on April 4, 2018**. Students will be asked to publicly present their 3MT during GRAD Day, and the winners will be announced at that time.

The 2018 UMD 3MT Application deadline is noon on **Friday, March 16, 2018**.

To help students prepare a 3MT presentation, the Graduate School Writing Center is offering 3MT workshops on February 27th and February 28th. Please register for a 3MT workshop [here](#).

3MT Award Information

The Graduate School will name a first-place and two runner-up award winners.

The first-place winner will receive:

- \$500 in research funds;
- professional coaching sessions to enhance the 3MT presentation;
- professional production of their 3MT video; and
- will be the UMD representative for the Universitas 21 International Competition in Fall 2018.

The runner-ups winners will receive:

- \$250 in research funds; and
- professional production of their 3MT video.

All winners may be eligible to compete in other state-wide or system-wide 3MT competitions.

Please view previous year's 3MT winners on the [Graduate School's 3MT webpage](#).

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible students must be enrolled in a UMD doctoral program and must achieve PhD candidacy by June 1, 2018. Students must also be enrolled for Fall 2017 and expect to graduate in December 2017 or later.

The UMD 3MT competition cannot accommodate Skype or video presentations.

Applicants must be available during the week of March 26th for step 1 of the competition, and then again on April 4th at 10:00 a.m. for step 2 of the competition.

To register to compete, students must prepare an application package as described below.

Registration/Application Package Requirements

A complete package includes:

- 1) Application Cover Sheet;
- 2) Abstract of the research to be presented (maximum 1 page);
- 3) Letter of endorsement from student's advisor (maximum 1 page);
- 4) Student's *curriculum vitae* (maximum 2 pages); and
- 5) one single static slide that visually represents the research;

Items 1 – 4 must be assembled into a single PDF file and submitted online to the Graduate School Awards System at www.gradschool.umd.edu/GSAwardsSystem by Friday, March 16. The PowerPoint Slide can be emailed to Robyn Kotzker at rkotzker@umd.edu by Friday, March 23rd.

Selection Process for UMD Competition

Step 1: 3MT Applicants will be scheduled to present their 3MT oral presentation to a Campus Selection Committee during the week of March 26th. The Committee will select up to 10 students to advance to Step 2.

Step 2: Students advanced to Step 2 will publicly present their three-minute oral presentation during the **Graduate Research Appreciation Day (GRAD) on April 4, 2018**. A judging Panel will select one first-place winner and two runner-ups. The student named in first-place will advance to Step 3.

Step 3: The first-place winner of the UMD competition will represent UMD in the Universitas 21 International 3MT Competition held in Fall 2018. The International Competition is based on a **3MT video presentation** rather than a live presentation. The Graduate School will provide the funding and arrangements for professional coaching and video production, and will submit the 3MT video to the U21 International Competition.

Information about Universitas 21

Universitas 21 (U21) is an international consortium of 28 research universities that UMD joined in 2014. They hold an annual **Three Minute Thesis (3MT)** competition for their member institutions only. Each member institution can submit **one** nomination in the form of a **video** of the student's three-minute presentation. More information about the U21 Three-Minute Thesis competition can be found at <http://threeminutethesis.org/>.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND THREE-MINUTE THESIS
2018 Registration to Participate

A complete 3MT application package contains:

- 1) this Registration Cover Sheet;
2) abstract of the research to be presented (maximum 1 page);
3) a letter of recommendation from the student's advisor (maximum 1 page);
4) student's curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages); and
5) one static slide representing the student's research;

Items 1 - 4 must be prepared in a single PDF file and submitted to the Awards Portal at www.gradschool.umd.edu/GSAwardsSystem . The slide can be emailed to Robyn Kotzker (rkotzker@umd.edu).

To be completed by the student:

Name _____ UID number: _____

Directory ID / UMD Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Program/Department & College (use 4-letter codes): _____

As of Fall 2018, I will be in the _____ year of my program.

Title of Dissertation: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

Advisor (name and email): _____

Director of Graduate Studies (name and email): _____

1. On what date did you (or will you) advance to candidacy? _____

2. When do you expect to defend your dissertation (month & year)? _____

Advisor's Letter of Endorsement:

Advisors, please write a one-page letter of endorsement commenting on the quality and significance of the student's research and on the student's demonstrated or potential ability to make a compelling three-minute presentation of that research. Your letter of endorsement can be added to the student's application materials or can be emailed separately to Robyn Kotzker (rkotzker@umd.edu) by Friday, March 16, 2018.

Contact Information:

For questions or further information, please contact Assistant Director Robyn Kotzker at rkotzker@umd.edu or extension #5-0281.