

# SIU Carbondale 2017

## 3MT Award Announcement

The Midwest Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) called for the Three-Minute-Thesis (3MT) submissions and asked each institution to hold local competitions to identify the best representative doctoral graduate student to compete at the MAGS conference in Indianapolis (April 5-7), 2017. Thus, the SIUC Graduate School, University Research Office and the Graduate Council's Research Committee would like to invite those active Ph.D. and Professional (research) doctoral graduate students to participate in this local competition (see eligibility below). We will offer three awards and sponsor only the best graduate student to present at the MAGS conference in April.

### 1. What is 3MT?

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition celebrates the exciting research conducted by Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) 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 a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

### 2. Why participate?

#### **Skills development for research candidates**

The exercise develops academic, presentation and research communication skills, while developing research candidates' ability to effectively explain their research in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

#### **Building research culture in schools and institutes**

3MT provides a valuable opportunity for research higher degree candidates to come together, get to know one another and talk about their research. It also provides a supportive environment in which schools and institutes can provide presentation skills training.

#### **Building external relations for the university**

3MT winners may go on to represent their university at national and international 3MT competitions, which provides an excellent networking and professional development

opportunity. Previous 3MT finalists have benefitted from invitations to a variety of other networking events following their participation in the competition.

### **3. Who can participate? Eligibility**

Active PhD and Professional Doctorate (Research) candidates who have successfully passed their confirmation milestone (including candidates whose thesis is under submission) by the date of their first presentation are eligible to participate in 3MT competitions at all levels. Graduates are not eligible.

### **4. How shall we process it locally? Rules**

-A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description is allowed. 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 three minutes maximum and competitors exceeding three 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 the presentation through either movement or speech.

-The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

### **5. How shall we select three best presenters? Judging Criteria**

At every level of the competition each competitor will be assessed on the judging criteria listed below.

Please note: Each criterion is equally weighted and has an emphasis on audience.

#### **5a. Comprehension and 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 result 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 the presentation – or did s/he elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

### **5b. Engagement and Communication**

-Did the oration make the audience want to know more?

-Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or generalize her/his research?

-Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for the research?

-Did the presenter capture and maintain the 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?

## **6. Our Deadline of the Submission, Expectations, and Three Awards at SIU**

The first-place award: \$700 for travel to the MAGS and \$500 in cash

The second place award: \$500 in cash

The third place award: \$300 in cash

The submission of a 100-word summary, one power point slide of their presentations with the applicant's detailed contact information (e.g., name, department, previous thesis advisor, applicant's email and cell phone and SIU Dawg tag) should be sent to the address below by February 1. The first place student will be expected to present April 5-7 in Indianapolis.

For our local presentation, the scheduled competitions will be held at 3:00-4:30 on February 15 and/or 16 (Wed /Thursday), 2017. The location TBA.

Please send all your submissions to the Graduate School (Mr. John Russell [johnprussell@siu.edu](mailto:johnprussell@siu.edu) or 618-453-4529) by February 1 and mark your calendar for presentation on February 15 and 16. Thank you.