Information for
HKU Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition 2020

November 2019
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1. The 3MT Concept – What is it?

• An academic competition to challenge postgraduate students to explain their research within 3 minutes to a general audience
The 3MT Concept – Background

- Developed by the University of Queensland (UQ) in 2008
- The Graduate School and the Knowledge Exchange Office (KEO) launched the HKU 3MT in 2011. The HKU 3MT is now run annually.
- This year, the Competition is also open to the final-year professional doctorate (PD)* students.

*Professional Doctorates (PD) include Doctor of Business Administration (DBA), Doctor of Education (EdD), Doctor of Nursing (DNurs), Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) in the field of Clinical Psychology, Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) in the field of Educational Psychology, and Doctor of Public Administration (DPA).
The 3MT Concept – Emphasis

• Consolidate your ideas and share your research discoveries in layman’s language to engage a non-specialist audience
The 3MT Concept –
Why is this skill important?

• If you can’t communicate what you are doing, how can you explain its significance and what it is worth?

• Especially when you apply for research funding, attend a job interview, or try to find a donor to support your research …
2. Eligibility Criteria for HKU 3MT

- PhD / MPhil / PD students +
- Candidature confirmed +
- In **final year of study** (i.e., within one year prior to the end of candidature or already submitted the “Notice of Intent to Submit a Thesis”)
Eligibility Criteria for HKU 3MT (cont’d)

- MPhil or PhD students who have submitted their theses?
  - ✓ if not yet received the confirmation letter from the Graduate School that they have already completed all the requirements for the conferment of the degree sought

- Students are permitted to enter the competition only once during their candidature.
3. Presentation Rules

• A single static PowerPoint slide (no slide transitions, animations or ‘movements’ 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)

• No additional props (e.g., costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment)

• 3 minutes maximum (competitors exceeding 3 minutes will be disqualified)
Presentation Rules (cont’d)

• Presentation in **spoken word** (no raps or songs)
• Presentation to **commence from the stage**
• Presentation considered to have commenced when a presenter starts the presentation **through either movement or speech**
• Presentation in **English**
• The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

Full list of the Presentation Rules on the [HKU 3MT website](http://www.hku.hk/3mt)
IMPORTANT: Consult Your Supervisors

- Due to the nature of the competition, any data or information presented or discussed in the Competition should be considered information that will likely enter the public domain (e.g. YouTube).

- You should discuss with your research supervisors before registering for the Competition.
4. Judging Criteria

- Comprehension & Content
- Engagement & Communication

Full list of Judging Criteria on the HKU 3MT website
5. The Adjudicating Panel

• Comprising members from both non-technology-related and technology-based disciplines

• Both internal and external members
6. Prizes

• Champion: **HK$10,000** research travel support* or book prize
• First Runner-up: **HK$6,500** research travel support* or book prize
• Second Runner-up: **HK$3,500** research travel support* or book prize
• People’s Choice Award (by audience ballot): **HK$3,500** research travel support* or book prize
• Online People's Choice Award (by being voted with most ‘LIKE's’ on YouTube): **US$130** book prize

*Research travel support will only be applicable to PhD/MPhil students*
7. Important Dates

• Date of Competition: March 12, 2020

• Heats in the morning and the final competition in the afternoon
Important Dates (cont’d)

2-step Registration Process:

1) 5pm, Jan 23, 2020, via HKU Event Management System +

2) ON OR BEFORE Jan 30, 2020, submission of the completed supervisor endorsement form to the Knowledge Exchange Office (Download Form)

NO late applications will be accepted!
8. Other 3MT Competitions

HKU’s Participation in a Regional/International Competition?

• Neither the champion nor any other winners of the HKU 3MT Competition will be automatically eligible to represent the University in any regional/international 3MT competitions

• HKU may participate in a virtual competition rather than one held overseas
Other 3MT Competitions (Cont’d)

• Candidate to represent HKU must meet the eligibility criteria set by the hosting institution or organiser concerned

• **Example:** If the hosting institution or organiser only allows PhD candidates to participate in its competition, the highest ranking PhD candidate among the HKU 3MT candidates may be given the chance to represent the University in that competition.
9. Tips for Participants – Getting Started

• Talk to your supervisors and research team!

• Think why your research is relevant and of interest to anyone who knows nothing about your field

• Watch the videos of past winners of HKU, UQ and Asia-Pacific 3MT
Tips for Participants – Your Slide

• Your slide should support your oral presentation

• But less is more – don’t make it too crowded

• Consider using images and less text

• Remember the rule: No transition or animation
Tips for Participants – Your Slide

Example:
Dr Carrie Lau
2014 Champion of HKU 3MT

“Home and school influences on the English vocabulary development of Chinese preschoolers in Hong Kong”
Tips for Participants – Research Content

• **But** you must explain your research, the complex ideas and your research findings

• **Don’t** just describe the initial research question!
Tips for Participants – Training Videos

• By Simon Clews of the University of Melbourne who has judged at the international 3MTs and conducted training to many 3MT candidates in different countries

• Offer tips, tricks and techniques covering topics from effective communications skills to producing a good slide (link)
10. Further information


Website: http://www.ke.hku.hk/hku3mt/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/hkukeo

Enquiries: Tel: 3917 0469 / E-mail: keoffice@hku.hk

Join NOW and have fun!