

RACE AGAINST THE CLOCK



The Office for Postgraduate Research (OPR) and Victoria University Postgraduate Association (VUPA) are pleased to announce the 2011 **Victoria University 3 Minute Thesis Competition (3MT)** which is open to all enrolled PhD, Masters by Research and Research Professional Doctorate candidates (DBA, EdD, DSW). The competition asks research higher degree students to present a compelling three minute oration on their thesis topic and its significance in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience in three minutes, with a single PowerPoint slide.

Heats will be conducted at the Faculty level. The heats will serve as practice opportunities for each faculty's students. Each Faculty judging panel will be required to nominate their top students (maximum of 6) to compete in the VU 3MT Grand Final competition on **September 2, 2011**. The winner of the Victoria University 3MT Grand Final will receive flights and accommodation to represent VU at the Australia and New Zealand competition hosted by [University of Western Australia](#) in Perth WA. The 2011 QU 3MT Grand Final will be held on **Thursday 29 September, 2011**.

WHO CAN ENTER?

Anyone who is post candidature and active in a research degree program (including thesis under submission). Graduates are not eligible.

* Note: the degree must be at least two thirds research (definition drawn from Grant Guidelines 2006 for Higher Education Support Act (HESA) 2003)

WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE?

- The 3MT Competition supports the development of research students' capacity to communicate ideas effectively to a range of non-specialist audiences and to the wider community.
- Victoria University is committed to enhancing the research culture and enabling opportunities for our research students to promote their research both internal and externally.
- This competition is being held across Australia and New Zealand and will generate public and media interest in what we do.
- Students who are unable to partake in the 3MT competition are still encouraged to attend the VU competition to support the students participating and celebrate the research being conducted at VU.
- It's a great networking opportunity for research students both within Faculties and across VU and finally, it's a lot of fun!

WHAT ARE THE RULES?

Students must present their thesis topic and its significance in 3 minutes. It is not an exercise in trivialising or 'dumbing-down' research. The oration should engage the audience without reducing research to entertainment value alone. Please note:

- A single PowerPoint slide is permitted (no slide transitions are permitted)
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, instruments are permitted)
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum. Competitors exceeding 3 minutes will be disqualified
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final

The key elements of the 3 Minute Thesis pitch are:

1. What is the problem that you have identified?
2. How does your research contribute to the solution of this problem?
3. What do you need (people, resources, money) to bring your solution to reality?

Each contestant will have a maximum of 3 minutes to:

1. Present their research topic
2. Explain how the research is conducted
3. Identify what impact it will have on the general or academic community

HOW WILL THEY CHOOSE THE WINNER?

The Faculty and VU competition judges will assess ideas according to the criteria below. The judges will give each competitor a score out ten for each criterion. The judging criteria for the VU and the Australia and New Zealand competition final will be:

- 1) **Communication style** - was the thesis topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience?
- 2) **Comprehension** - did the presentation help the audience understand the research?
- 3) **Engagement** - did the oration make the audience want to know more?

WHAT PRIZES ARE ON OFFER?

Prizes will be offered to the winners of the Faculty heats and the University VU Grand Final. **Prizes in the VU Grand final are:**

- 1st Prize – \$2000 towards research expenses
- 2nd Prize – \$1000 towards research expenses
- 3rd Prize – \$500 towards research expenses
- People's Choice – ipad2

For prizes in the trans-Tasman competition, please visit the [UQ 3MT website](#).

HOW DO I ENTER?

Step 1: Apply to the Faculty to Participate in the 3MT Competition

If you wish to take part in the 3MT competition, you must register and participate in the preliminary heats being held by each Faculty:

FACULTY	3MT DATE AND VENUE	FURTHER INFORMATION/REGISTRATION
Faculty of Arts, Education and Human Development	22 July, Room G467, 3-6pm, Footscray Park campus	Grace Schirripa on 9919 2127 or email grace.schirripa@vu.edu.au
Faculty of Business and Law	21 July 2011, Room 11.07, 1-3pm, City Flinders campus	Myra Hoad on 9919 1496 or email myra.hoad@vu.edu.au
Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science	20 July 2011, Room D714, 4-6pm, Footscray Park campus	Liz Smith on 9919 4228 or email elizabeth.smith@vu.edu.au

Step 2: The VU 3MT Grand Final

Following the Faculty heats, the Faculty judging panel will nominate their top 3MT presenters (maximum of 6) to the OPR for entry in the VU 3MT Grand Final. The VU 3MT Grand Final will be a celebratory event for the whole VU community to watch and enjoy.

The VU Grand Final will take place on **Friday September 2, 2011**. All University staff are encouraged to come along and support the students participating in the 3MT Grand Final competition. A social function will follow the event.

If you would like to be in the audience for the VU 3MT Grand Final, please RSVP by email to 3mt@vu.edu.au by **August 25, 2011**.

WHO CAN ASSIST ME TO PREPARE MY ENTRY?

The OPR will be providing training for prospective participants. Training sessions are conducted by Jim Buckell, External Communications Manager at VU. For more information about training, including eligibility, dates and times, please download the [2011 3MT TRAINING INFO PACK](#).



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