Guidelines for the 5 Minute Research Pitch (5RP)

The 5 Minute Research Pitch is an opportunity for researchers to showcase their research to a national audience and be in the chance to win a total of $7,000 towards their research.

Researchers will be required to deliver a short 5 minute presentation of their recent research with the aid of 3 PowerPoint slides. The competition is similar to the 3 minute thesis competition run nationally for PhD students.

1. Eligibility

The 5 Minute Research Pitch is open to active proven researchers (at Level A, B and C) who are employed by the following Australian Higher Education Institutions:

- Australian Catholic University;
- Edith Cowan University;
- Federation University;
- Southern Cross University; and
- Victoria University.

The research presented must be current; either currently being completed or published from 1st January 2013.

Research students are not eligible to compete, however, if you are employed as an academic staff member at one of the above institutions and concurrently undertaking a PhD you are eligible as a staff member. It is also appropriate to present work conducted as a PhD student within the above timeframe, if currently employed as an academic staff member.

2. Competition/Rules

Presentations are limited to five minutes. Any presenter exceeding five minutes may have points deducted from their overall score.

Three PowerPoint slides are permitted. These may include photos, diagrams or other graphic material to extrapolate the research. Non-static media (videos, sound-clips) are permitted to a maximum of 30 seconds and will be included in the five minute presentation time.
The judging panel’s recommendations are final and negotiations will not be entered in to once the winners are announced.

3. Internal Heat and Nomination Process

To participate in the national finals it is a requirement that each university first runs an internal heat. The first and second place winner from each of the below discipline groupings from each institution will then participate in the national finals, to be held in Melbourne in November 2014.

The winner of the individual groupings from each institution will receive $1,000 from their own university, to be credited to their university research account. Both the first place and second place winner of each grouping will proceed to the national finals.

4. Discipline Groupings

The first and second place winner of each of the below groupings in the institutional heats will proceed to the national finals. The groupings are as follows:

**Grouping One – Science & Health**
- Biological Sciences and Biotechnology;
- Health and Medical Sciences;
- Engineering, Mathematics and Informatics; and
- Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences.

**Grouping Two – Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences**
- Humanities and Creative Arts;
- Education, Social and Behavioural Sciences;
- Law; and
- Business, Commerce and Economics.

5. Judging Panel

*Internal heats:* Each institution will be responsible for forming the judging panel for their internal heats. Judges should include an expert from each of the above groupings and have a minimum of 3 judges.

*National final:* Each institution will nominate one of their internal judges to sit on the judging panel at the national finals. Victoria University will select from the nominations and will construct a panel accordingly.
6. Judging Criteria

Participants will be judged on:

- Description and importance of research problem;
- Description of the research process;
- The ability to communicate research to a non-specialist audience;
- Clear overall conclusion and final summary; and
- Creativity of presentation and engagement with the audience.

7. The National Finals

The national finals will be held in Melbourne in November 2014, with the location and date to be determined by the host institution - VU. Details and written proposals of all institutional finalists will be forwarded to the host institution prior to the final event.

Each discipline grouping will be awarded a first, second and third place winner based on the judging panel’s choice. One overall winner will be selected from the winners of the two discipline groupings. The total prize money received by the overall winner at the national final will be $7,000 ($2,000 discipline prize money plus overall winner prize).

Discipline Winner: $2,000
Second place: $1,000
Third place: $500
Overall winner: $5,000

The prizes are awarded for research purposes and will be awarded to the winners’ research account – the prizes will not be available as a cash prize.

8. VU Contact

If you have any questions regarding the 5 Minute Research Pitch, please contact:

Dr Melanie McGuire
Manager, Researcher Development
Portfolio of Research & Research Training
Victoria University
(03) 9919 4704
melanie.mcguire@vu.edu.au