

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS – THREE MINUTE THESIS

The ECAI 2020 Organizing Committee invites Starting AI Researchers to apply for taking part in the Three Minute Thesis (3MT[®]) contest to be held in conjunction with the conference, under the umbrella of the ECAI2020 Mentoring and Communication for Starting Researchers ([MC4SR](#)), which includes other events such as [STAIRS](#), [Doctoral Consortium](#), [Job Fair](#), and [Lunch with a Fellow](#). The 3MT[®] is an academic research communication competition developed by The University of Queensland (UQ), Australia.



Further details about the 3MT[®] rules are available at:
<https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/>

The 3MT[®] competition celebrates the exciting research conducted by Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students. It 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.

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 presentation are eligible to participate in this 3MT competition. We also admit applicants who are Starting Researchers (i.e., those who have not been awarded a doctoral degree but also researchers with not more than 3 years of experience after getting their PhD).

The competition includes two independent tracks:

- **Research2Society:** Participants present the key points of their PhD thesis, with emphasis on the scientific contributions and a language style not only oriented to specialists in their respective topics, but also for non-specialized attendants.
- **Research2Market:** in addition to presenting the thesis, participants must present how the results of his/her PhD could be taken to the market. Models of social transfer, not necessarily market-oriented, will also be considered.

If you have any inquiry, please do not hesitate to get in touch with ECAI2020 3MT Chairs:

- [Ulises Cortés](#) (Barcelona Supercomputing Center and Univ. Politècnica de Catalunya)
- [Jose María Alonso](#) (CITIUS, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela)

Contact: mc4sr@ecai2020.eu

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Updates at ECAI2020

Website: www.ecai2020.eu

Twitter: [@ecai2020](https://twitter.com/ecai2020)

Important Dates (All deadlines 23:59 UTC-12)

20 June 2020 3MT application

20 July 2020 3MT notification

Further Information for 3MT competition

Rules

- A single static slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description are allowed. The slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) is 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 their presentation through either movement or speech.
- The decision of the judging panel is final.

Judging Criteria

Each competitor will be assessed on the judging criteria listed below. Each criterion is equally weighted and has an emphasis on audience.

1. Comprehension & Content

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background and significance to the research question being addressed, while explaining terminology and avoiding jargon?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the impact and/or results of the research, including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Was the thesis topic, research significance, results/impact and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation – or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

2. Engagement & Communication

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or generalize their research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their 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?

Registration and Awards

Finalists are required to register for the ECAI main conference but they are encouraged to register also for the ECAI MC4SR event. Pay attention to reduced fees for students. In addition, notice that presenters of the three best presentations in each competition track will be awarded with a diploma and their conference registration fee will be reimbursed.

The winner of each competition track will be awarded with a fully funded research stay at the Research Center on Intelligent Technologies ([CITIUS](#)) of the University of Santiago de Compostela.

Travel Grants

A limited number of [EurAI travel grants](#) will be available.

Application details

Applications must be submitted by the deadline as a PDF file via the ECAI2020 [3MT Easychair](#):

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=ecai20203mt>

Applicants should submit (as a single PDF file) curriculum vitae (2 pages) with background (name, university), PhD status, relevant experience in research (publications, awards, presentations, conferences attended, etc.), link to 3-minutes video which introduces the PhD thesis in non-technical language, and link to the PhD thesis in PDF if it is already published.

CONTACT AND UPDATES

Any questions about the ECAI2020 Three Minute Thesis Competition should be directed to the 3MT Chairs:

Ulises Cortés (Barcelona Supercomputing Center and Univ. Politècnica de Catalunya)

Jose María Alonso (CITIUS, USC)

<http://ecai2020.eu/three-minutes-thesis/>

Contact: mc4sr@ecai2020.eu

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