



Guidelines for the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) student competition

The 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) is an academic competition that assists current students with fostering effective presentation and communication skills. Interested students registered on an educational, training or development course (e.g. undergraduate, masters or PhD degree programme, medical residency) are invited to submit abstracts to this competition. Abstracts are reviewed by a panel of experts and successful applicants will be allowed three minutes in the 3MT student competition session to explain the breadth and significance of their research project to a multidisciplinary audience. Entering an abstract to the 3MT student competition does not preclude the abstract being submitted additionally in another format e.g. free paper or poster.

Objectives

- to provide student researchers with a place to present and discuss their ideas / data with the audience
- to provide practice giving condensed and consumable versions of research findings
- to encourage new generations of practitioners/researchers to participate in the World Congress

Eligibility

Anyone who is **currently enrolled as a student or was enrolled as a student at any point between June 2025 and March 2027** is eligible to participate in the 3MT student competition. This includes individuals who have graduated or completed their course requirements during this period. Your studies must be related to physical therapy, occupational therapy, medicine, engineering, prosthetic & orthotics, human movement sciences or rehabilitation to be considered for the competition. If you are unsure whether you are eligible, please contact us at info@ispo-congress.com.

Presentations must be based on research that is related to the student's programme thesis. The topic is to be selected from the available list of [congress topics](#). Research performed for previous degrees or employment should not be presented.

The theme of the ISPO 21st World Congress will be "[A World Connected: Advancing Assistive Technologies for Global Equity](#)". We encourage presenters to highlight links to this theme where possible.

3MT student competition session/s

The 3MT student competition will be held in parallel to other symposia, instructional courses and free paper sessions. All presenters are to attend the World Congress in-person. Digital attendance is not possible.

Mentoring

ISPO wants to support the students to bring their best to the 3MT competition. Mentoring is offered to support students with writing their abstracts and / or preparing their presentations. Students can request mentorship for abstract writing until Monday, 3 August 2026 to receive feedback by the end of August. Mentorship for preparing presentations can be requested by the end of January 2027. Please request support by emailing to info@ispo-congress.com.

Submission and evaluation process

Applications will be collected via the regular [submission of free paper and poster abstracts](https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/81043/submitter) (<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/81043/submitter>). The **submission deadline is Monday, 7 September 2026**. Please review the [Guidelines for free paper and poster abstracts](#) prior to completing the submission form.

Eligible participants will need to indicate in the submission form that they would like to submit to this specific competition. Applicants can submit their abstract to be considered for the 3MT student competition as well as for the free paper and poster sessions given the latter enables a more fulsome overview of their work.

Presentation rules

Please note the following presentation rules:

- **The title and content presented must align with the title and content submitted in the abstract.**
- A maximum of 1 slide is permitted.
- Images used on the slide must be your own, or you must have permission from the owner of the photo(s) and provide proper credit(s).
- No additional electronic media (e.g. no sound, animations and video files) are permitted.
- Presentations are to be spoken word. Use of additional languages, signing, reading of sections of poetry or prose, or playing musical instruments is allowed IF directly related to the research and used sparingly.
- No additional props (e.g. laser pointers, costumes, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- We encourage creative forms of research dissemination.
- No notes allowed. Presentations are meant to be memorized – do not read from notes.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum. Judges are recommended to deduct marks from presentations that exceed 3 minutes.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through movement or speech.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

Judging criteria

Your presentation will be judged based on the following criteria:

Comprehension and content:

- The presentation provides a clear background and rationale for the research question.
- The presentation provides a clear description of the presenter's research and research approach.
- The presentation clearly describes the research strategy/design and the results/findings of the research.
- The presentation clearly describes the (or potential) conclusions, outcomes and impact of the research.
- The presentation design was well-defined and enhanced the presentation.

Engagement and communication:

- The oration was delivered clearly.
- The language was appropriate for a non-specialist audience.
- The presenter conveyed enthusiasm for the research, captured & maintained the audience's attention.

Prizes

The best 3MT student presentation will be presented with a prize during the World Congress Closing Ceremony on Thursday, 25 March 2027. The awarding of prizes is at the discretion of the SPC.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the competition, please contact the ISPO World Congress team:

Email: info@ispo-congress.com | Phone: +49 341 678 -8237 or -8238