



Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

2023 MDHS Honours Student Conference Contestant Guidelines

Wednesday 25 October 2023 9 am - 3 pm

David P. Derham Theatre, Law Building, University of Melbourne

Abstract Submission: Due 22nd of September 5pm



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Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition Round Guidelines

The Three-Minute Thesis is an opportunity for you to showcase your research work in an engaging manner, targeting an audience that is not an expert in your field or specialty. For general abstract submission guidelines please refer to page 4.

3MT Judging Criteria

Comprehension & Content

- Understanding of the background and significance of the research question being addressed, while explaining terminology and avoiding jargon.
- A clear description of the impact and or the results of the research, including conclusions and outcomes.
- Communication of thesis topic, research significance, results and impact, and outcomes.
- The presentation does not overly trivialise or generalise their research.

Overall Presentation

- Clear and cohesive presentation, complemented by one PowerPoint slide that is informative and enhances the content; and
- The language used is appropriate for a non-specialist audience.

3MT Guidelines

- 1 single PowerPoint slide, no additional props (e.g., costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment and animated backgrounds) or electronic media (e.g., sound and video files).
- Presentation is to be spoken word (e.g., no poems, raps, and songs).

Useful Resources

- 3MT at the University of Queensland <https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/asia-pac> has plenty of resources including videos from the past Asia-Pacific and U21 3MT competitions.

Poster Presentation Competition Round Guidelines

In addition to the 3MT, the conference poster competition is an opportunity to present your research to a wide audience, and to demonstrate your skills in effective scientific communication. Please note: Due to limited budget, if you are selected for the poster competition you will be required to bring a printed version and the conference will supply a poster easel on the day.

The judging of the poster presentation will involve two components, the poster and your communication skills of the poster's various features. All submissions will be adjudicated and shortlisted based on the following poster content criteria, with both the poster content and presentation criteria being used on the day of the conference:

Poster Judging Criteria

Poster Content

- The poster provides background and significance to the research question being addressed.
- A clear description of the impact and or the results of the research, including conclusions and outcomes.
- Effective and creative use of figures, diagrams, and other visuals to communicate the essential details of the research.
- The poster does not overly trivialise or generalise the research, nor does it overcomplicate with jargon or unexplained concepts.
- Appropriate use of text to maximise communication of key ideas and research outcomes, whilst ensuring readability and visual appeal.
- Poster uniqueness and style.

Overall Presentation

- A clear and cohesive presentation draws the audience's attention to each substantive element of the poster while explaining terminology and avoiding jargon.
- The language used is appropriate for a non-specialist audience.

Poster Guidelines

- The poster must clearly communicate the research question, methodology, results, and a discussion of the overall significance.
- The poster must represent the sole work and research of the author submitting it to the competition.
- Posters must be designed to be printed on A0 (841x1189mm) sized paper.
- Posters must not include copyrighted material that is not owned by the author.
- QR codes and other interactive features are permitted.

Useful Resources

- There is a wealth of resources on the internet including instructional websites and videos on how to design an eye-catching poster. Such as this [one](#) from the Academic Skills Department at the University of Melbourne.

Abstract Submission

- **Abstract Submission closes 22nd of September at 5 pm**
- Please email your abstract to mdhs-honoursconference@unimelb.edu.au with the subject title **'YourStudentID_fullname_abstract'**
- Must be in English, all authors should be listed, with the presenting author underlined.
- **Word Limit:** maximum 300 words in the body of the abstract.
- Abstracts must be submitted in Word format with the file being saved as **'YourStudentID_fullname_abstract'**.
- IF you have registered for both the 3MT and Poster presentation, please preference (1-2) your choices in the body of the email.
- All submissions will be adjudicated and shortlisted based on the following criteria. Shortlisted candidates will present at the Conference.

Useful Resources

- There is a wealth of resources on the internet including instructional websites and videos on how to write a winning abstract. **Such as this [one](#) from the Academic Skills Department at the University of Melbourne.**

Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Guidelines

- The poster and presentation must represent the original research of the contestant.
- The authors of the poster will always retain all rights regarding its use prior to and following the competition except as stated below.
- Due to the nature of the competition, judges, reviewers, staff, or the audience will **not** be asked to agree to or sign non-disclosure statements for any participant.
- The competition is open to the public at large. It may be live-streamed through social media.
- Any data or information discussed or divulged by the poster or presentation should be considered information that will likely enter the public realm, and entrants should not assume any right of confidentiality in any data or information discussed, divulged, or presented in the competition. This means that **if your research includes commercial-in-confidence or culturally sensitive material you should think very carefully about how you can present this information.**



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