



## THESIS TALK 2021

### Rules

The UC3M Doctoral School and Vice Rectorate for Studies host the fifth edition of [THESIS TALK](#).

In THESIS TALK, our PhD candidates present their research projects to a non-specialist audience in just 3 minutes, focusing on the what, how and why of their research. A single slide is permitted to enhance their presentation.

THESIS TALK follows the guidelines of [Three Minute Thesis \(3MT\)](#), originally developed by the University of Queensland (Australia) in 2008 and replicated by more than two hundred institutions worldwide. With this activity, the Doctoral School highlights the importance of the research projects carried out in their PhD programs and promotes them on a format and language adapted to non-specialist audiences.

The regular face-to-face format of this activity has been converted to **online** due to the safety measures put into place to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

*Free registration. 2 cross-curricular credits.*

### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

THESIS TALK 2021 is open to all our students enrolled on a Ph.D. program during the 2020-2021 academic year, including those who have participated in previous editions.

### REGISTRATION

Those interested are required to fill out the [registration form](#) and submit both the recording of their presentation and the slide to the Doctoral School ([escueladoctorado@uc3m.es](mailto:escueladoctorado@uc3m.es)), either as attachments or cloud storage links.

- Registration deadline: **May 25th, 2021** (23:59h.)
- Video/slide submission deadline: **June 13th, 2021** (23:59 h.)

*Places unlimited.*

Registration implies the participant's acceptance of the rules and evaluation criteria as expressed below, and explicit consent to publish the recording of their presentation on the institutional repositories of the University. Participation in this activity requires also the [authorization of the student's PhD advisor](#).

## STAGES

### Pre-selection (estimated date: second half of June)

Once the registration and submission of the videos have been completed, the videos will be treated as confidential and will only be accessed by the members of the Jury designated by the Head of the Doctoral School. The Jury will evaluate the videos and select a shortlist of 15\* participants to qualify for the final. From then on, the videos will be available for the public.

*\*Subject to change according to the Jury's criteria.*

### Final (estimated date: first half of July)

Finalists will give their presentation live on the Zoom platform. Only the finalists, members of the Jury and Doctoral School staff will join the Zoom session. A link will be provided to the general public to follow the livestreamed session. The Jury's decision will be announced during the final.

## PRESENTATION FEATURES

Participants are required to submit their presentations for the pre-selection stage on a **digital** format according to the following:

- Presentations can be carried out in English or Spanish.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes, to be counted from the moment the participant commences the presentation by either movement or speech. Presentations over 3 minutes will be discarded.  
Recommended time allocation:
  - 15-30 seconds: scope and purpose of the project
  - 120-150 seconds: student's contribution, methodology and outcomes
  - 15-30 seconds: significance and contribution of the outcomes
- The title of the presentation can be different from that of the thesis.
- A single static slide (PowerPoint or similar) is permitted. The slide cannot feature any dynamic elements (transitions, animations...), participant's name, title of presentation or thesis or any academic or professional affiliations.
- The slide will not be inserted in the video but submitted to the Doctoral School as a separate file to be edited later.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) is permitted.
- No additional props (costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are spoken (no poems, raps or songs). Quotes from a poem or song can be included if it is relevant to the thesis topic.

#### Technical features:

- Recording can be made on any device (cell phone, PC, camera, etc.)
- Horizontal orientation
- Format: mp4
- The video cannot be cut or edited

#### Recommendations:

- Resolution: 1920 x 1080
- Centered, medium shot (from chest upwards)
- Any background is permitted
- It is recommended to record the video in a quiet interior environment, with natural daylight, and avoid artificial or back lighting.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

The presentation:

- Focuses on research work and personal contribution
- Provides understanding of background and significance of research
- Describes methodology and key results of research
- Follows clear, logical sequence
- Uses an appropriate language to non-specialist audience
- The presenter is careful not to trivialize research
- The presenter captures audience's attention, has presence, eye contact, vocal range, maintains pace, has confident stance
- The slide enhances presentation

## PREPARATION

Participants can prepare their presentation in two ways:

- Preparatory workshops (optional). Tutorial sessions on communication skills: expression, synthesis, non-verbal language and time management, among others. These sessions are hosted by the Doctoral School and will be conducted online during the first half of June. Those interested can mark this option in the registration form, as well as the language (Spanish or English), which must be the same as that of the presentation.
- Self-preparation. The following material can be useful:
  - Thesis Talk (previous editions): [2019](#) | [2018](#) | [2017](#) | [2016](#)
  - [3 Minute Thesis \(3MT\)](#)
  - [Can you explain your thesis in a nutshell?](#)  
Original of [UNITEC Institute of Technology](#) (New Zealand) and [Griffith University](#) (Australia)
  - [How to win the 3MT](#). Original of [thesiswhisperer.com](#)

## PRIZES

First Prize: € 900

Second Prize: € 600

Third Prize: € 300

*Prizes subject to current tax legislation.*

Inquiries: [escueladoctorado@uc3m.es](mailto:escueladoctorado@uc3m.es)

Further information: [THESIS TALK 2021](#)