

Edge Hill's Three-Minute Thesis Competition 2024

Friday 5th July 11am-1pm – H241, Health building

As part of Edge Hill's Teaching and Research Week 2024, the Graduate School is hosting a three-minute thesis competition. Participants will have three minutes to present their research project, as well as its significance, to a panel of judges and a non-specialist audience.

Prizes:

1st Place - £300 of book tokens.

2nd Place - £200 of book tokens.

3rd Place - £100 of book tokens.

To register as a participant, please send your name, thesis title, and a single static PowerPoint slide to graduateschool@edgehill.ac.uk no later than 12:00 noon on the 21st June.

Rules:

- Presenters may be accompanied by a single, static PowerPoint slide. The slide will be displayed from the start of their presentation, and must not contain any video, animations, transitions, or 'movement' of any description.
- Participants have a maximum time limit of three minutes to present their thesis. Competitors who exceed this time limit are automatically disqualified.
- Presentations must take the form of a spoken word (no songs, poems, dances, or raps).
- Presenters are not allowed to incorporate props/gimmicks (for example, musical instruments, laboratory equipment, artefacts, costumes, or animals) or electronic media (music, video, sounds, etc).
- The time limit will commence once the presenter begins their presentation. A presentation is judged to have begun through either movement or speech.
- All presentations must start and end from in front of the display screen.
- The judges' decision is final, and in the event of a tie, the casting vote resides with the Chair of the judging panel.

Criteria for Judging:

The following criteria are equally weighted across each category:

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?

Communication

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialise or generalise 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?

PowerPoint

- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?

Further resources:

To watch videos of other Three Minute Thesis competitions, you can visit the Vitae website here: <https://www.vitae.ac.uk/events/three-minute-thesis-competition>

Vitae have also collated advice from previous winners of Three Minute Thesis competitions here: https://authorservices.taorandfrancis.com/blog/research-impact/presenting-your-research-effectively-and-with-confidence/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=JOG10500&utm_term=postby