UMASS LOWELL

3MT® THREE MINUTE THESIS
FOUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

2026 UMass Lowell Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition

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https://www.uml.edu/graduateschool/3mt.aspx

An 80,000 word PhD thesis would take 9 hours to present.
Your time limit... 3 minutes.

Prizes

1st Prize $ 750
2nd Prize $500
3rd Prize $250
People's Choice $250

3MT@UML 2025

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UMASS University of Massachusetts Lowell

- **celebrates the exciting research conducted by graduate students**

Regional

NAGS
Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools

National

CGS COUNCIL OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS

- **cultivates presentation and communication skills to a non-specialist audience.**

**School of Graduate Studies *Office of Research Development *Graduate Student Association + …*

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2026 UML 3MT® Dates

- **Info Session**: Friday, Feb. 13 from Noon to 12:45 p.m. via Zoom
- **Training Session**: Friday, Feb. 20 from noon to 2 p.m. via Zoom
- **One-on-one Training**: Feb. 23 to March 2 (faculty led, in person or Zoom)
- **Preliminary Round**: Tuesday, March 3 from 4 to 7 p.m. at University Crossing.
- **Finals**: Friday, March 20 from 3 to 5 p.m. at University Crossing.

The training sessions are open to all graduate students, while only advanced Ph.D. students are eligible for the competition itself.

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History

- **2008**: First 3MT held at UQ with 160 competitors.
- **2009**: Expanded to universities in Australia and New Zealand.
- **2010**: Inaugural Trans-Tasman 3MT at UQ.
- **2013**: First global Universitas 21 (**U21**) 3MT competition.
- **2016**: Trans-Tasman renamed Asia-Pacific 3MT, with more regions.
- **2020**: 3MT goes virtual due to COVID-19.
- **2021**: 3MT held in both virtual and live formats globally.
- **Now**: 3MT is hosted by 900+ universities in 85+ countries.
- **2025**: 3MT @ UMass Lowell inaugurated.

https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/home

https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/resources/3mt-competitor-guide

https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/watch-3mt

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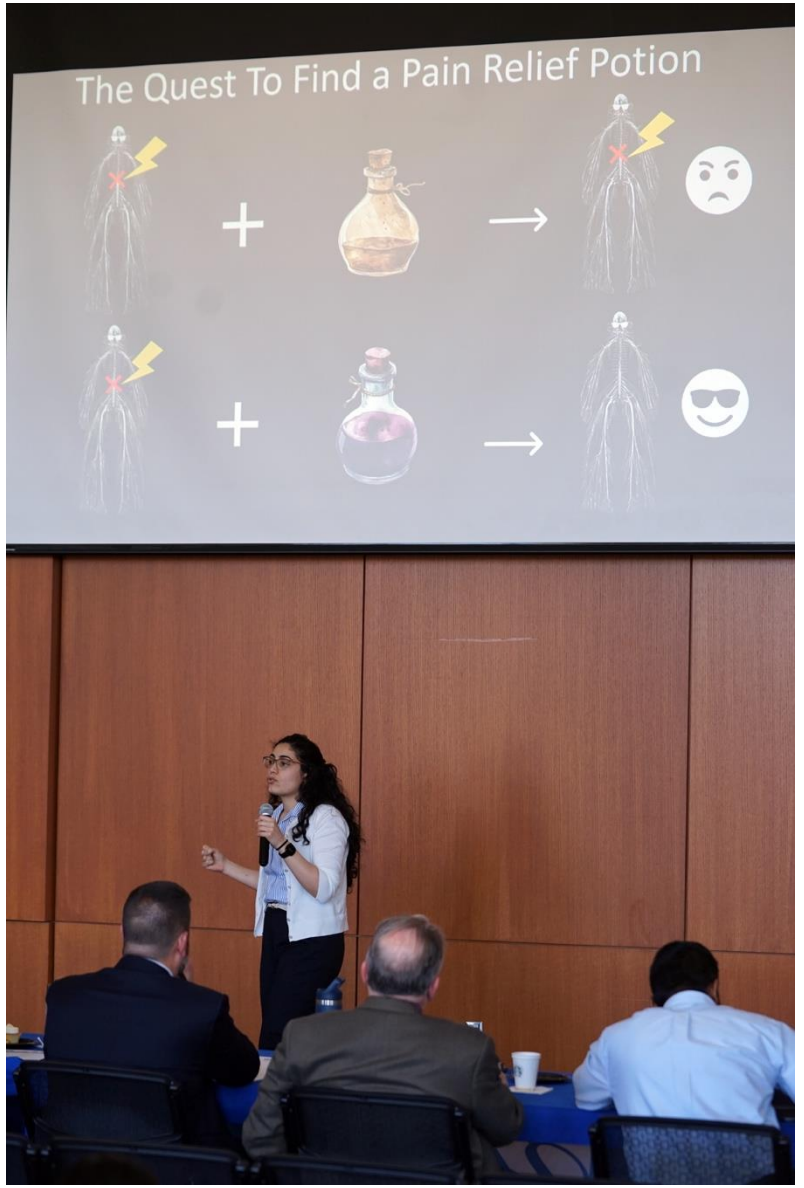
Rules

- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through either movement or speech
- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or movement, and is to be presented from the beginning of the oration.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound or video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.



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Judging Criteria

Comprehension and content

- Presentation provided clear motivation, background and significance to the research question
- Presentation clearly described the research strategy/design and the results/findings of the research
- Presentation clearly described the conclusions, outcomes and impact of the research

Engagement and communication

- The oration was delivered clearly, and the language was appropriate for a non-specialist audience
- The PowerPoint slide was well-defined and enhanced the presentation
- The presenter conveyed enthusiasm for their research and captured and maintained the audience's attention

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3MT@UML 2025 winners

3MT@UML (2026) timeline

Feb 13: info session (12:00-12:45 pm) (Zoom)
Feb 20: training sessions (12:00-2:00 pm) (Zoom)
(open to all graduate students engaged in research)
Feb 23-Mar 2: one-on-one training (faculty led, in person or Zoom)
Mar 3: live on-campus preliminary round competition (4 to 7 pm)
(training sessions open to all graduate students engaged in research, only advanced PhD candidates eligible to compete)
Mar 20: live on-campus finals competition (3 to 5 pm) *(top 10 finalists from preliminary round)*
Mar 31: all winners present at UML Student Research Symposium
Apr 22: 1st place winner on to regional competition NAGS 2:00-4:00 pm ET (Zoom)
December : regional winner on to national competition (in person at CGS annual meeting)

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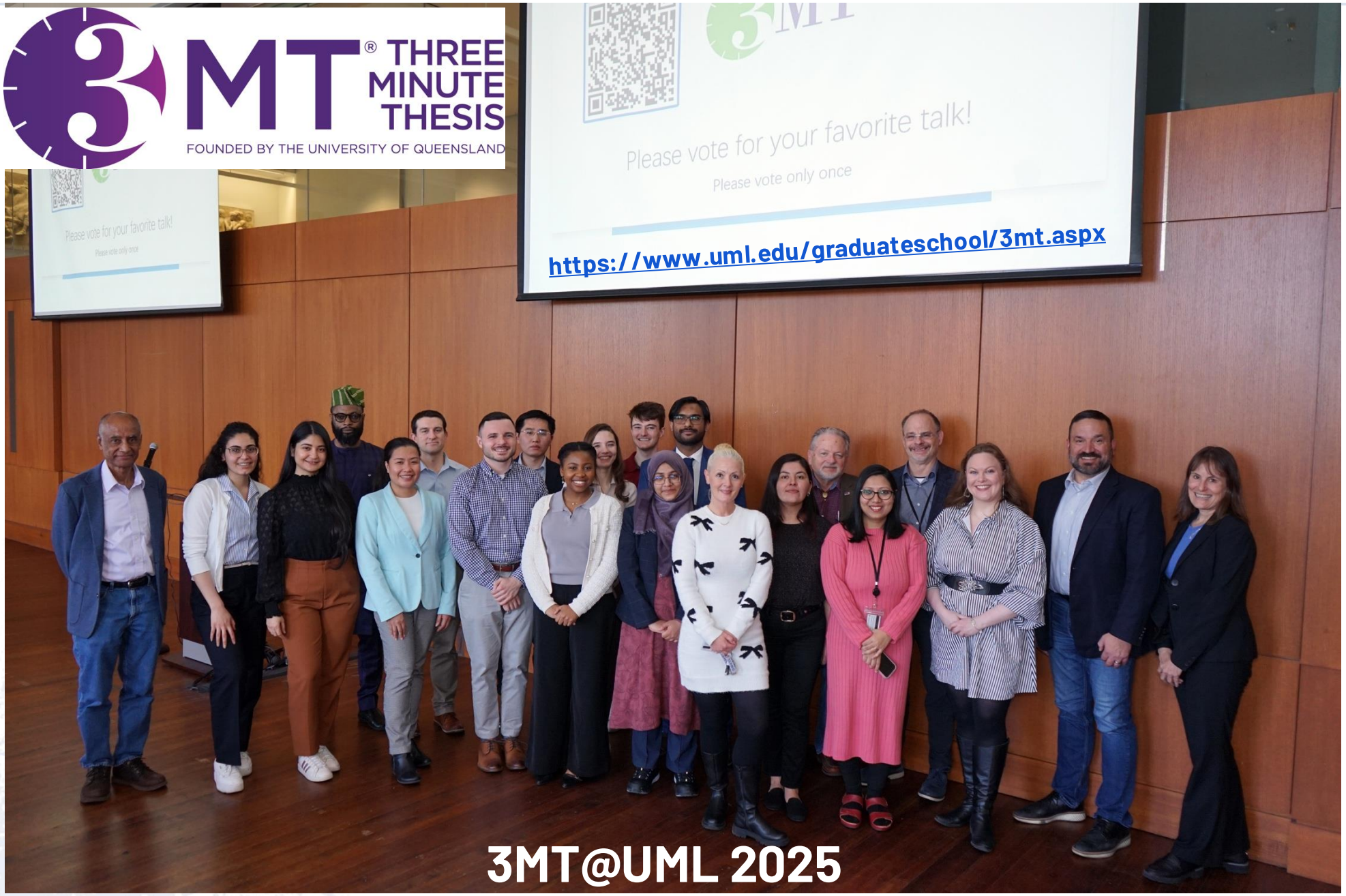

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