April 22, 2024

The 4th Kyushu U 3MT Application Guidelines for AY2024

1. Overview

(1) 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) is an international competition in which doctoral students present their research in three minutes in English, using only one slide. 3MT was started in 2008 at the University of Queensland (UQ), one of our partner universities. Currently, more than 900 universities from 85 countries participate in this well-known and highly regarded competition. This is the fourth time that Kyushu U 3MT has been held, having started in AY2021.

(2) The 3MT is intended to refine students' academic research, presentation, and research communication skills. Students are also expected to provide explanations that can be conveyed to people outside their field of expertise so that their research can be made known to a wider audience.

(3) By participating in Kyushu U 3MT, the students are expected to improve their communication skills and develop the ability to work with people from different backgrounds across fields of study. They will also gain valuable opportunities to be active in the international settings and to develop their research in the future.

(4) The winner of the Kyushu U 3MT will compete in the Asia-Pacific 3MT Competition (virtual) hosted by UQ.

2. Eligibility

Students enrolled in the doctoral program at Kyushu University (3rd-5th year for integrated doctoral programs)

＊They must be enrolled at Kyushu University as of July 2024.

3. Award

Research grants and certificates will be awarded. (One each)

(1) Winner: 300,000 yen

(2) Runner-Up (2nd place): 200,000 yen

(3) People's Choice (audience vote): 100,000 yen

＊Winner will be supported by the International Affairs Department until the Asia-Pacific 3MT Competition. (i.e., brushing up of presentation, video shooting, etc.)

＊Research grants will be allocated to the awardee's labs.

4. Items required to be submitted and application procedures

(1) Items required to be submitted

① Slides (PPT 2 pages)

・ Slide 1: Title slide
The following form is stored in the link provided on Forms, so please fill out the required information. The title slide should be inserted at the beginning of the video for about 5 seconds.

・ Slide 2: Presentation slide
Please provide a one-page PPT summary of the research you are working on. The presentation slides should be placed in the upper right corner or right side on the video using an editing tool (e.g. Kapwing). Please refer to the "Good Example" and "Bad Example" below to edit your presentation.

Good Example

Bad example
(face and slide are small)

② VIDEO

- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified. (timing does not include the 3MT title slide and commences from when the competitor starts speaking, not the start of the video)
- Videos must meet the following criteria
    - Filmed on the horizontal;
    - Filmed on a plain background;
    - Filmed from a static position;
    - Filmed from one camera angle;
    - Contain a 3MT title slide;
    - Contain a 3MT presentation slide (top right corner/right side)
- A single static slide is permitted in the presentation (no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description). This can be visible continuously, or 'cut to' (as many times as you like) for a maximum of 1 minute.
- The 3 minutes of audio must be continuous (no editing or interruption of sound).
- No additional props (e.g., costumes, instruments, lab equipment, animated backgrounds, etc.) may be added to the video.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- Please submit in mp4 format with an aspect ratio of 16:9.
- You will not be judged on the quality or editing ability of your video or recording.
- For more information on how to edit the video, please check the tutorial movie at the URL below.
(＊Edited in Kapwing as an example)
[YouTube] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xtvr9PqrKU

(2) How to apply
Enter the applicant information (student ID number, name, affiliation, contact information, title of research, name and contact information of academic advisor, etc.) in the Forms below. At that time, please upload and submit ① (slide 1, 2) and ② (video).

The file names of ① and ② should be "Student ID number_name_2024."
(Example: 1AB12345C_Taro KYUDAI_2024)
[Forms] https://forms.office.com/r/Fvxvfte0Dn

◆**Notes**
- Please make sure that the presentation is easy to understand for people outside of your field of study.
- It is not necessary that the research is completed.

◆**Submission deadline**
Friday, June 14

5. Briefing session
Friday, May 10, 15:30 - 16:30
Online (＊Details will be posted on Global Gateways.)

6. Selection
(1) First stage screening
　　① Subject to review
　　- Items listed in 4. (1) ① and ②

　　② Judging criteria
　In accordance with the judging rubric for the UQ main competition, the presentations will be evaluated comprehensively from the following perspectives.

　　(i) 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

　　(ii) 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, captured and maintained audience's attention

③ Notification of screening results
Students will be notified by email on Monday, June 24.

(2)Final
① Date and time: Adjustment is underway for late July. (TBA)
② Location: Online
③ Subject to review
3-minute presentation (video) and 5-minute Q&A session with the judges
④ Judging criteria
See 6. (1) ②
⑤ Screening Results
The announcement will be made on the day of the final, and the award ceremony will be held on a different day.

7. Schedule
(KU selection)
- Monday, April 22   Call for applications
- Friday, May 10   Briefing session
- Friday, June 14   Applications close (slides and video)
- Monday, June 24   Notification of 1st round selection results (tentative)
  *Applicants who pass the 1st round will be given a period to brush up their slides and videos.
- Late July   Kyushu U 3MT (TBA)
- During August   Brush-up period for winners' slides and video
- Early September   Filming of video to be submitted to UQ
- Friday, September 27   Deadline for video submission to UQ

(The Asia-Pacific 3MT Competition)
- Tuesday, October 8   Asia-Pacific 3MT Semi-Final Showcase
  *Online Showcase published on the 3MT website
- Monday, October 21   Asia-Pacific 3MT Final Showcase

＊Finalists announced / Online Showcase
published on the 3MT website
- Wednesday, October 30   Asia-Pacific 3MT Final
＊Video Viewing / Finalist Q&A / People
Choice Vote / Announcement of Winners (Virtual)