

## The 6th Kyushu U 3MT Application Guidelines for AY2026

### **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 sixth 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 Course)

- \*Applicants must be enrolled at Kyushu University as of July 2026.
- \*Applicants must agree to having the video published on YouTube (unlisted) for the People's Choice review.

### **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.

\*It is recommended that the awardees use the research grants to cover the expenses of traveling abroad to attend international conferences, etc.

#### 4. Items required to be submitted and application procedures

(1) Items required to be submitted

① Slides (PPT 2 pages)

- Slide 1: Title slide

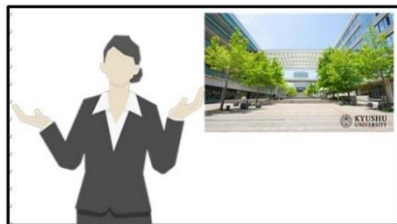
The following form is stored in the link provided on Forms, so please fill out the required information. The title slide should be inserted at the beginning of the video for about 5 seconds.



- Slide 2: Presentation slide

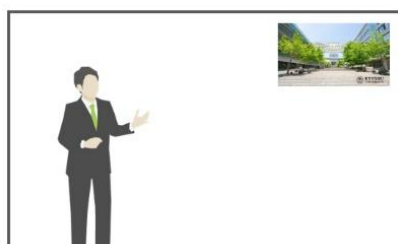
Provide a one-page PPT summary of the research you are working on. The presentation slide should be placed on the video using an editing tool (e.g. Kapwing). Please refer to the "Good Example" and "Bad Example" below to edit your presentation.

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/cut to)
- 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 minute audio must be continuous - no sound edits or breaks.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment, animated backgrounds) are permitted within the recording.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted within the video recording.
- 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&feature=youtu.be>

### (2)How to apply

Enter the applicant information (student ID number, name, affiliation, contact information, 3MT presentation title, academic

advisor, etc.) in the Forms below. At that time, please upload and submit ① (slide 1, 2) and ② (video).

The file name of ① and ② should be "Student ID number\_name\_2026."  
(Example: 1AB12345C\_Taro KYUDAI\_2026)

[Forms] <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/2Tn0BPh0AC>

### ◆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 5, 2026

## **5. Briefing session**

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 12:10-13:00

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 Tuesday, June 16, 2026.

(2)Final

① Date and time: Monday, July 27, 2026 14:15 – 16:00

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** \* The following schedule may change slightly due to various circumstances.

(KU selection)

- Tuesday, April 21 Call for applications
- Tuesday, May 12 Briefing session
- Friday, June 5 Applications close (slide and video)
- Tuesday, June 16 Notification of 1st round selection results
  - \*Applicants who pass the 1st round will be given a period to brush up their slide and video.
- Tuesday, July 7 Deadline for submitting the revised slide and video
- Monday, July 13-Thursday, July 16
  - Video open and voting for the People's Choice
- Monday, July 27 Kyushu U 3MT
- On a different day after Kyushu U 3MT, Award Ceremony & Interview is scheduled. (Date to be determined)
- \*The award winners' academic advisors may also attend.
- During August Brush-up period for winners' slide and video
- Early September Filming of video to be submitted to UQ
- Friday, 11 September Deadline for video submission to UQ

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(The Asia-Pacific 3MT Competition 2026)

- Friday 11 September: 3MT Competitor Video Submission Deadline
- Monday 21 September (Public holiday in Japan): Asia-Pacific 3MT Semi-Final (Online Showcase)
- Friday 2 October: Asia-Pacific 3MT Finalists announced (Online Showcase)
- Wednesday 14 October: Virtual Asia-Pacific 3MT Final (Video Viewing/Finalist Q&A/People's Choice Vote/Announcement of Winners)