

Thursday, March 26th, 2026 at 4:30pm
A246 (small cafeteria)

BACKGROUND

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) is a competition for graduate students in which participants present their research and its wider impact in three minutes or less to a panel of non-specialist judges. The challenge is to present complex research material in an engaging, compelling way, using only one slide. The 3MT® provides graduate students with an opportunity to refine skills that can be transferred after graduation to diverse career paths. Distilling research into a clear form, without over-simplifying or making it overly-complex, and highlighting the wider implications of this research are important skills to carry into post-graduate employment and public service.

COMPETITION AND PRIZES

First Place: \$500

Runner-up: \$250

People's Choice Award: \$250

The winner of Nipissing University's 3MT® competition will move on to compete at the Ontario Regional competition in early May (location and exact date TBD). Then, the top two presenters from the Ontario Regional 3MT® will go on to represent the province at the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) 3MT®, which is the Canadian national competition, taking place during the annual CAGS Conference.

Your participation in the 3MT® will also go on your Nipissing [Record of Student Development](#)! Be sure to register for the RSD on your MyNipissing account.

ELIGIBILITY

Graduate students competing in the 3MT® must:

- Be current/active in a Nipissing University graduate program (not on a leave of absence),
- Be registered in a master's (Thesis or MRP route) or PhD program at the time of the competition,
- Base their presentation on research that is directly related to the graduate program thesis, MRP, or dissertation (course based master's students are ineligible)
- Be able to present in person, agree to be video recorded/photographed, and agree to allow those recordings and images to be made public,
- Inform their supervisors of their participation in the competition.

Graduate students who have defended their MRP/thesis/dissertation but have not yet graduated are also eligible to compete.

REGISTRATION

To compete, graduate students must complete the [registration form](#) no later than **February 13th 2026**.

COMPETITION RULES

- A single static 4:3 PowerPoint slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations or 'movement')
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files)
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment)
- No laser pointers
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs)
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final

COMPETITION MATERIALS

All competitors will need to submit the following no later than **Thursday, March 19th, 2026** to sgs@nipissingu.ca:

1. Your MRP/Thesis/Dissertation title (a working title is acceptable)
2. The title of your 3MT® presentation (if different from your thesis title)
3. A 100-word abstract of your presentation
4. The PowerPoint slide that you plan to use for your presentation
5. Model release form (to be circulated)

INFORMATION SESSION

There will be a one-hour 3MT® Information Session on **Friday, February 6th, 2026 at 12pm on Zoom**. Those who are interested in competing are welcome to attend. Please [RSVP here](#) so we know who plans to attend and to track RSD participation:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88272368367?pwd=vrwzbeXgOnoDaaizY3RC3s5abH9jFV.1&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 882 7236 8367

Passcode: 085846

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

For those who would rather cheer on the presenters than compete, we encourage you to attend and show your support. Audience members will be able to vote for the People's Choice Award recipient, which is also an RSD approved activity!

LEARN MORE

To learn more about 3MT®, you can visit [our website](#) and contact the School of Graduate Studies at sgs@nipissingu.ca.

APPENDIX A: JUDGING CRITERIA

At every level of the competition, each competitor's presentation will be assessed according to the criteria listed below. Please note that each criterion is equally weighted. *(Please note that the criteria may be adjusted).*

Communication Style

- Was the dissertation/thesis/MRP topic and significance communicated in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience?
- Did the speaker use sufficient eye contact and vocal range, maintain a steady pace, and exhibit a confident stance?
- Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology that needed to be used, and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
- Did the presenter spend the right amount of time on each element of the presentation – or did the presenter elaborate for too long on some elements or was the presenter rushed to get through the presentation?
- Did the slide enhance, rather than detract from, the presentation; and was it clear, legible, and concise?

Comprehension

- Did the presentation help the audience to understand the research?
- Did the presenter clearly outline the nature and aims of the research?
- Did the presenter clearly indicate what was significant about this research?
- Did the presentation follow a logical sequence?

Engagement

- Did the presentation make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or "dumb down" the research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for the research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
- Would the audience want to know more about the speaker's research?