

Invitation to Participate in the InstituteQ 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) Pitching Competition

Dear Doctoral Students in the Field of Quantum in Finland,

InstituteQ will host a 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) competition as part of the Finnish Quantum Days at the University of Jyväskylä on September 9-10, 2026. This competition is a fantastic opportunity for you to showcase your research, hone your presentation skills and engage with a wider audience.

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

What is 3MT?

The 3MT competition, developed by The University of Queensland, challenges doctoral students to present a compelling oration on their thesis topic and its significance in just three minutes using only one static PowerPoint slide and no additional props or media. The goal is to cultivate your academic, presentation and research communication skills and explain your research in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

Eligibility

All active doctoral students in **Finland** whose research is related to quantum science and engineering are eligible to participate in the InstituteQ 3MT competition (including candidates whose thesis is under submission by the date of their first presentation). Graduates are not eligible.

Why Participate?

- **Skill Development:** Enhance your ability to communicate complex ideas clearly and effectively.
- **Visibility:** Increase awareness of your research and its impact to a broad audience.

How to Participate?

1. **One-minute video:**

Record a short video on your thesis topic, without any slides. The video must not exceed 1 minute. Name the file *FirstName_LastName_University_3MT_2026*.

2. **Submit your video here by April 30 at noon.**

Please note that you will NOT be judged on video/ recording quality or editing capabilities but the ability to communicate your research to a non-specialist audience.

3. **Preliminary Screening:** Submissions will be reviewed by a panel, and selected semi-finalists will be announced by May 8.
4. **3MT workshop:** Mid-May
5. **Semi-final:** May 26
6. **Final:** September 9-10, Finnish Quantum Days 2026 (University of Jyväskylä)

Your 3MT presentation will be judged by a jury panel based on the following criteria:

- 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; and
- Presentation clearly described the conclusions, outcomes, and impact of the research.
- 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.

People's choice vote

An important aspect of the competition is the People's Choice prize. Following all presentations, the audience is asked to vote on who they thought gave the most convincing 3MT presentation (based on their understanding of the criteria above). Voting to be facilitated via an online poll. A finalist can be the winner or runner-up and still receive the People's Choice award.

Prizes:

- **Winner:** €1000
- **Runner-Up:** €500
- **People's Choice:** €500