

Three Minute Thesis at Universidade de Lisboa 2026 Edition

PUBLIC NOTICE

1. Scope and Objectives

Universidade de Lisboa promotes the Three Minute Thesis event, aimed at PhD students, with the objective of training young scientists in science communication and bringing the public closer to the world of science. By taking part in this initiative, students have the opportunity to develop unique skills, such as how to clearly and creatively communicate complex ideas to different audiences, efficiently managing content, tools and time. In addition, the event aims to promote scientific culture, stimulate interdisciplinarity and strengthen mutual knowledge within the Universidade de Lisboa. The Three Minute Thesis competition is inspired by a format developed and patented by the University of Queensland, Australia (3MT®).

2. Eligibility

All PhD students enrolled on the 3rd year and onwards of a PhD Program at the Universidade de Lisboa, in the current academic year 2025/2026, can apply for the Three Minute Thesis at the Universidade de Lisboa.

3. Admissibility

- a) The competition is organized in two phases:
- In Phase 1 (selection), the application must be submitted on the competition page on the Universidade de Lisboa webpage (<https://www.ulisboa.pt/info/three-minute-thesis-ulisboa-3mtr>), **between 2nd to 15th February 2026**, and must include the application data and mention to the scientific area to which it applies. Upon receipt of applications, participation in a training course in Science Communication is offered to all candidates. Candidates must submit the three-minute video in Portuguese or English and the slide between **27th February to 20th March 2026**, in the same webpage. At the end of Phase 1, the finalist candidates are selected.
 - In Phase 2 (final), the 12 finalists participate in the final of the competition with an oral presentation before the jury and the public, from which the first, second and third places will be selected.
- b) The communications to the competition, either in video format in Phase 1 or in-person on stage in Phase 2, must follow the following rules:
- The maximum duration of the communication is three minutes. Communications that exceed this time are disqualified. Time is considered to start when the candidate starts the presentation through movement or speech, until the moment he/she ends it;
 - The communication can take place in Portuguese or English;

- The single slide must be static, without transitions, animations or movement of any kind. In Phase 1, this slide is not included or embedded in the video, but submitted separately in PDF format. The title of the slide must mention the Universidade de Lisboa, the name of the participant, the title of the communication and the scientific area (Social Sciences; Arts and Humanities; Medical and Health Sciences; Engineering and Technologies; Natural Sciences). In Phase 2, the slide is displayed from the beginning of the candidate's communication.
- Props, such as objects, costumes, laser pointers, musical instruments, laboratory equipment, animated backgrounds, are not permitted.
- Video and audio cannot undergo any type of editing – such as cuts, stops or effects. The video must be recorded in a single take and the camera must be still.
- Communications are in spoken word – songs, rap or poems are not allowed.
- In Phase 2, communications must start from the stage.
- Electronic devices are not allowed during video recording (sound and video documents).
- Videos that do not meet these criteria are not considered. Eligible videos are evaluated by the Jury, whose decision is final.

4. Evaluation Criteria

In their evaluation, the jury will follow these criteria:

a) Scientific content

- Provides a clear context for the research question;
- Conveys the research strategy and the results obtained-
- Conveys the findings and impact of the research;
- Uses rigorous language but suitable for non-specialists.

b) Communication

- Is balanced from the point of view of body language, eye contact, use of available space, voice projection;
- The slide is clear and represents an added value;
- Conveys enthusiasm for research and captures the attention;
- Takes place with good time management.

5. Jury Composition

The jury includes professors/researchers from the Universidade de Lisboa of different scientific areas (Social Sciences; Arts and Humanities; Medical and Health Sciences; Engineering and Technologies; Natural Sciences), science communicators and a member of each partner, chaired by a Vice-Rector of Universidade de Lisboa.

6. Deadlines and Procedures for Complaint and Appeal

After the results are communicated, in each phase of the competition, the non-selected candidates have a period of 10 working days to, if they so wish, voice their opinion at a prior hearing of interested parties, in accordance with articles 121 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedure. The final decision will be issued after analyzing the pronouncements presented in prior hearing of interested parties. A complaint may be lodged against the final

decision within 15 working days, or, alternatively, an appeal may be lodged within 30 working days, both counting from the date of the corresponding notification.

7. Announcement of Results

The results of each phase of the competition will be published on the Universidade de Lisboa website and the finalists will be notified to the e-mail address indicated in the submission of the application.

8. Awards

- a) Phase 1 applicants have access to a course in Science Communication and receive a certificate of participation and completion of the course.
- b) The twelve finalists of Phase 2 have access to the final.
- c) The awards of the first three classified are distributed as follows:
 - 1º Place: cash prize of 5000,00€ (five thousand euros);
 - 2º Place: cash prize of 2000,00€ (two thousand euros);
 - 3º Place: cash prize of 1000,00€ (one thousand euros).

9. Payment of the Award

Cash prizes will be paid by bank transfer to the NIB/IBAN of the respective holder.

10. Deadlines

- a) Applications for the competition will take place from 2nd to 15th February 2026;
- b) The Science Communication course for candidates will take place in 25th and 26th February 2026;
- c) Video submission will take place from 27th February to 20th March 2026;
- d) The selection of the finalists will occur until 29th April 2026;
- e) The final of the competition will take place in late May 2026,
- f) The award ceremony will take place in late June 2026.

11. Applicable Law and Regulation

The competition is governed by this public notice and by the guidelines of the Three Minute Thesis at Universidade de Lisboa competition. It is also recommended that you carefully read all supporting documentation available on the Universidade de Lisboa website.

12. Contact Point

Information about the competition should be requested via the email address: 3mt@reitoria.ulisboa.pt.

13. Non-Discrimination and Equal Access Policy

The Universidade de Lisboa promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, whereby no candidate can be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty due to, namely, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and union affiliation.

Lisbon, 29 January 2026

The Rector

Luís Ferreira