

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## 11th Annual Graduate Academic Conference

hosted by COGS

*“Where Minds Meet World: Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Application”*

We invite you to submit your abstracts to this year’s Graduate Academic Conference. This year, the conference explores how research impacts everyday lives. The keynote and workshops will engage graduate students in rich discussions on how to apply theoretical knowledge to practical problems in a creative way. Detailed information about the keynote speaker and conference workshops will be forthcoming.

**Abstract Submission Deadline:** January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Conference Date:** February 16, 2019

Submit your abstract [here](#)

Abstracts are welcome on the following themes and should be limited to 250 words:



<p><b><i>Innovative Ideas and Creative Technology</i></b> This session focuses on research using creative/innovative approaches to investigate questions across disciplines. Studies can focus on basic or translational research, including, but not limited to, social science (art, education, etc.) and STEM (engineering, astronomy/physics, computer science, life sciences, etc.)</p>	<p><b><i>Networks: Business to Biosphere</i></b> This session focuses on interactions between systems and individuals. The research presented should focus on fields related, but not limited to, technology, business, communication, and biosciences.</p>
<p><b><i>Sustainability</i></b> This session is targeted at research that will guide us through an uncertain future, bridging the knowledge from, but not limited to, research on climate change, the environment, food and water, energy, and business.</p>	<p><b><i>Healthy Societies</i></b> This session is targeted towards research areas that deal with understanding and improving the human experience, including, but not limited to, research from the colleges of Engineering, Social Science, Communication, Arts and Letters, Music, Nursing, and Medicine.</p>
<p><b><i>Future Solutions to Present Problems:</i></b> This session will focus on any potential novel applications and concepts that could be used to solve current issues. This research includes, but is not limited to, engineering, natural sciences, social sciences, communication, humanities, and the medical fields.</p>	

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS  
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MSU is an affirmative action  
equal opportunity institution

The Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT) is returning this year with a “People’s Choice” category. The first-place winner will be sponsored to attend the regional competition in Missouri, in March. To enter the competition, submit your teaser [here](#) – a 30 second voice recording of your presentation with a single PowerPoint slide

The top three poster, oral and 3MT presentations will each be awarded prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$200 respectively.

A \$5 participation fee and endorsement from an academic advisor are required for all presenters. The endorsement

form and other resources on how to prepare for the 3MT can be found on [our webpage](#).



Thank you.

Graduate Academic Conference Committee

Email: [cogsgac@gmail.com](mailto:cogsgac@gmail.com)

Reach out to us with any questions at: [cogsgac@gmail.com](mailto:cogsgac@gmail.com)



Do you have what it takes to present your research to a non-specialist audience in only three minutes?

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition was developed by the University of Queensland to celebrate students' research and exercise their communication skills. The aim of the competition is for students across colleges and departments to cultivate their academic, presentation and research communication skills by explaining their research to a wide audience containing non-specialists in just three minutes.

The winner of MSU's 3MT competition will progress on to the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) 3MT later in the spring semester.  
(<http://mags-net.org/three-minute-thesis-award/>)

### **Rules & How to Compete**

- Students enrolled in either Master's and Ph.D. programs may compete. A student's program of study must contain an original research project. The degree program need not formally require a thesis or dissertation, however the presentation topic must cover the original research project.
- Students must be an enrolled student during the spring 2019 semester.

### **Competition Rules**

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. Slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description of the slide content is not allowed.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. notecards, scripts, pointers, costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3:00 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3:00 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter begins through movement or speech.
- The decision of the judging panel is final.

## **To Compete: Submit a 30 second teaser of your 3MT presentation.**

Please upload a single powerpoint slide with 30 seconds of voice over using the Record Slide Show function in powerpoint.

Any questions about submissions? Contact us at: [cogsgac@gmail.com](mailto:cogsgac@gmail.com)

## **Judging Criteria**

At every level of the competition each competitor will be assessed on the judging criteria listed below. Each criterion is equally weighted and has an emphasis on audience.

### **Comprehension & Content**

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background to the research question being addressed and its significance?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the key results of the research including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Were the thesis topic, key results and research significance and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation – or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

### **Engagement & Communication**

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or generalize their research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
- Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?

## **Resources**

[Making the Most of Your Three Minutes](#) Simon Clews, University of Melbourne

[Tips and Techniques or More Confident and Compelling Presentations](#) Matt Abrahams, Stanford University

[Ten Hints for Improving Presentations for the Three Minute Thesis Competition](#) Danielle Fischer, Charles Darwin University

## Examples

Megan Pozzi, University of Queensland, Australia

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0K9iYUBCG\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0K9iYUBCG_o)

Sharon Savage, University of New South Wales, Australia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfrUCg1S7vk>

Rob Duguid, Miami University

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dexCh39jEq4>

For more info about 3MT visit: <https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au>

Any questions? Contact: [cogsgac@gmail.com](mailto:cogsgac@gmail.com)



**Graduate Academic Conference 2019**  
Advisor's Endorsement of  
Student's Participation

Conference theme: *Where Minds Meet World: Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Application*

Conference date: Saturday, February 16

Presentation title:

Student's name:

Advisor's name:

**To the advisor:** Signing this form indicates that you endorse the student's participation in this year's Graduate Academic Conference. The student should be on campus in the spring of 2019 to present their research at the conference. A signed copy of this letter will be submitted to the GAC organizing committee with the student's presentation.

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*Advisor's Signature*

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*Date*