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Postgraduate School  
Research Capacity Development

# 2025 Events and Competitions Information Booklet

Visit our website: <https://www.uj.ac.za/postgraduate-school/research-capacity-development/>

For Visualise Your Thesis, Three Minute Thesis and PG & PDRF Research Conference queries, please contact us on [rcdenquiries@uj.ac.za](mailto:rcdenquiries@uj.ac.za).

For Supervisor Enrichment Orientation queries, please contact us on [supervisioncourse@uj.ac.za](mailto:supervisioncourse@uj.ac.za)



The VYT is a competition format developed by The University of Melbourne. The competition challenges graduate researchers at any stage of their candidature to present their projects in a 60- second, eye-catching, video. Using a pre- supplied template, you are tasked with developing a striking video presentation that succinctly describes your research, and its potential benefits, to a non-specialist audience. VYT provides you with an opportunity to build and apply your information and digital literacy skills. By creating a “visual elevator pitch” you will develop crucial employability skills including effective communication, information and digital literacy, and visual storytelling. You will also build your awareness of open access to information and copyright.

### **Eligibility**

Visualise Your Thesis is open to *currently-enrolled graduate researchers* (i.e. students enrolled in M.Phil., Masters by Research, Ph.D. or Professional Doctorate programmes) at *any stage of their candidature* who are *active* and *attending* of registered VYT institutions.

### **Not eligible to enter VYT are;**

- Honours students
- Masters by coursework students (even if their program has a research/thesis component)
- Graduate researchers on a leave of absence (= inactive and not attending)
- Lapsed candidates
- Graduate researchers who are employed by their university who may have, or may be perceived to have, influence over the outcome, research funding or related resourcing, or an otherwise unfair advantage over the other entrants from their university.

### **Institutional Competition Entry Process**

- **Entry opening: 01 April 2025**
- **Round 1 (11 May 2025):** Entry closing - Submission of application form, supervisor declaration letter, abstract, video and script - (Templates will be provided)
- **Round 2 (25 May 2025):** Panel feedback to successful entrants and request for corrections
- **Round 3 (06 June 2025):** Final submission of corrected abstract
- **Date of Competition: 13 June 2025**

### **Other Levels of Competition:**

**National:** First, Second, Third Place and People's Choice Award Winner progresses to this level. The competition is held in a hybrid format by the selected National host University for the year. Dates to be announced – Potentially in November of each year.

**International:** First Place Winner progresses to this level. The competition is hosted online by the University of Melbourne. Dates to be announced – Potentially in October of each year.

### **Essential links**

- Competitor Guidelines, FAQ and other resources available at: [Click here](#)
- To view UJ Institutional VYT competition details and past winners: [Click here](#)
- To express your interest in participating at the institutional level, please complete our online form: [Click here](#)



First developed by the University of Queensland in 2008, the Three Minute Thesis competition (3MT®) challenges research students to communicate the significance of their projects to a non-specialist audience in just three minutes. 3MT provides research students with the opportunity to develop their academic, presentation, and research communication skills by explaining their research to an intelligent but non-specialist audience. The local UJ competition will challenge students to present face-to-face, and additionally the virtual final will hone skills associated from being filmed for an international audience, receiving international peer review, and gaining skills surrounding the presentation of their research to a wider audience.

### **Eligibility**

Active Doctoral (Registered Ph.D. and Professional Doctorate (Research)) candidates (who have successfully passed their confirmation milestone by the date of their first presentation (including thesis under submission) are eligible to participate in the 3MT competition. Graduates are not eligible.

### **Rules**

- A single static slide is permitted (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.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- The 3-minute audio must be continuous – no edits, breaks etc.
- No additional props (e.g., costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment, animated backgrounds) are permitted.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g., no poems, raps or songs).
- The video can be filmed for a live 3MT event or a specific set but must have only one camera angle filmed from a static position. Zoom in and out from the static position is acceptable.
- No additional electronic media (e.g., sound and video files) are permitted within the video recording.

- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through movement or speech (timing does not include the student's title slide).

### **Institutional Competition Entry Process**

- **Entry opening: 02 June 2025**
- **Round 1 (11 July 2025):** Entry closing - Submission of application form, supervisor declaration letter, abstract and PowerPoint slide with voiceover (Templates will be provided)
- **Round 2 (25 July 2025):** Panel feedback to successful entrants and request for corrections
- **Round 3 (08 August 2025):** Final submission of corrected abstract
- **Date of Competition: 30 August 2025**

### **Other Levels of Competition:**

**National:** First and Second Place Award Winner progresses to this level. The competition is held in a hybrid format by the selected National host University for the year. Dates to be announced – Potentially in October of each year.

**International:** First Place Winner progresses to this level. The competition is hosted online by Universitas 21. Dates to be announced – Potentially during October – December each year/ January of next year. For more information: [Click here](#).

**South African – Nordic (SANORD):** First Place winner of the previous year is nominated for this level and considered for the title of the South African Regional Winner. If awarded this title, the winner will receive an all expenses paid trip to present at the SANORD 3MT annual showcase in August of this year. For more information: [Click here](#).

### **Essential links**

- Competitor Guidelines, FAQ and other resources available at: [Click here](#)
- To view UJ Institutional VYT competition details and past winners: [Click here](#)
- To express your interest in participating at the institutional level, please complete our online form: [Click here](#)



## POSTGRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWS (PG & PDRF) RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The aim of this conference is to help researchers develop presentation and research communication skills, reflect on their research by gaining panel-reviewed feedback, develop interdisciplinary outlooks through exposure to a variety of peers and build networks. This year, we hope to make this platform bigger and better by extending our reach across Pan-Africa, bringing together leading researchers, academics, and industry professionals, creating a truly international forum for collaboration and knowledge exchange. With a focus on fostering international collaborations, the conference will feature keynote speakers, participant presentations, and networking opportunities specifically tailored to facilitate connections between researchers from diverse backgrounds. . Researchers either partake in a poster presentation session or in the oral presentation session which is categorized by level of study and involves a 10-minute presentation with the use of PowerPoint slides. Both of which are directed to a non-specialist audience. This unique gathering will not only showcase the latest advancements in research but also promote cross-cultural understanding and the development of sustainable solutions to global challenges.

### **Eligibility**

Active Postgraduate Diploma, Honours and Masters students, PhD candidates and Postdoctoral Research Fellows. Graduates are not eligible.

### **Competition Entry Process**

#### **Entries now open:**

- 1) Follow the link to the flyer, [click here](#).
- 2) Please select the appropriate link on the flyer for the role you are interested in.
- 3) Please complete the online “Expression of Interest” form.

Once this is complete, you will receive an automatic email with a download link for the abstract template and information on submission, deadlines and registration fees.

	<b>Submission Deadline</b>	<b>Registration fees</b>
<b>Round 1</b>	31 January 2025	R2000
<b>Round 2</b>	28 February 2025	R2000
<b>Round 3</b>	31 March 2025	R2500
<b>Round 4</b>	30 April 2025	R2500

- 4) Panel feedback will be given to successful entrants, request for corrections and payment of registration fees within a month of their abstract submission.
  
- 5) Final submission of corrected abstract and supervisor declaration letter and completion of personal details forms – date to be communicated when feedback is given to successful entrants.

**Essential links**

To view our past competition details and past winners: [Click here](#)



## SUPERVISOR ENRICHMENT ORIENTATION

The Supervisor Enrichment Orientation Programme is designed to help supervisors identify strategies to address key challenges that they face, whilst providing them with the University of Johannesburg's expectations for supervisory responsibilities and tips on how to locate support and resources to become a more effective supervisor.

### **Eligibility**

The programme is aimed at new, current and aspiring postgraduate supervisors who are potentially looking to enrich their professional development such as: Academic and Support staff, Postdoctoral Research Fellows (PDRFs), Research Associates and Research Fellows.

**Date of event:** 09 July 2024

### **Essential links**

- To express your interest in participating, please complete our online form: [Click here](#)
- To view our past event: [Click here](#)