



*"My three-minute PhD thesis"* is a research communication competition open to all PhD students of the nine participating universities of UNITA-UNIVERSITAS MONTIUM and partners<sup>1</sup>, in any field, where PhD students should present their research in an effective way to a non-specialized audience. *"My three-minute PhD thesis"* is part of the ongoing opening of research to society.

The competition is organized in two steps. As a first step, each university of UNITA-UNIVERSITAS MONTIUM organizes its own competition and selects its PhD students. As a second step, the selected PhD students will participate to a final face-to-face competition at UPPA. Both local and final selections obey the same objectives and rules, as follows.

PhD students have three minutes to present a compelling oration on their thesis and its significance, in a clear and concise manner. The objective is to develop their communication skills and capacities needed to explain effectively a research topic in a short time and in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

The PhD students will benefit from a common online training organized at UNITA level in April to prepare them to the exercise before the local selection (at most 10 trained PhD students per university).

Selected PhD students will come to the campus of Pau from 1 to 5 July 2024. They will benefit from an additional face-to-face training before the final. This additional training emphasizes oral expression in stressful situations, covering voice control, gestures and behaviour mastery, as well as managing contact with the jury and the audience.

#### **Rules for the presentations:**

- The presentation should be made in English.
- The presentation should not exceed 3 minutes. (The presenter is cut off after 3 minutes).
- One single static slide has to be used for the presentation (landscape format). The use of this slide is compulsory, as it is part of the evaluation.

The presentations are evaluated by a jury, according to a set of criteria provided at the end of this document.

Each university determines the jury for its local selection. For the final selection, each university appoints one member for the final jury. The president of the final jury is the member of the university which hosts the final selection.

For the final selection, the presentations will be filmed and simultaneously broadcasted through UNITA's social media channels. Participation in the competition implies the consent of the

contestants for the dissemination of their interventions.

Certificates will be awarded to all participants for both the local and final selections. Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners of the final competition.

**Agenda:**

- Local competition before **mid-May (At USMB: 16 may)**.
- Final face-to-face competition at the University of Pau and Pays de l'Adour (UPPA) **from 1 to 5 July**, jointly with a UNITA event.

**Additional rules:**

- At the time of applying for participation in the competition, candidates must have the approval of their PhD supervisor.
- Any data or information disseminated by the contestants in the competition must be susceptible to public dissemination; if the research is subject to a confidentiality agreement, the participants must check the contents of their participation in the competition with the parties involved. Their university shall not be held responsible for any infringements that may arise as a result of such non-compliance.
- Participants undertake to be present both at the selection session of the local phase and, where appropriate, at the final phase at UPPA.

---

**<sup>1</sup> Participating universities:**

- Universidade de Beira Interior (UBI, Portugal)
- Universidad de Zaragoza (UNIZAR, Spain)
- Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour (UPPA, France)
- Université Savoie Mont Blanc (USMB, France)
- Università di Torino (UNITO, Italy)
- Universitatea de Vest din Timisoara (UVT, Romania)
- Transilvania University of Brasov (UNITBV, Romania)
- Universidad Pública de Navarra (UPNA, Spain)
- University of Brescia (UNIBS, Italy)



## ASSESSMENT GRID

### **TALENT FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING (7 points)**

Clear voice  
Rhythmic presentation  
Fluidity of gestures  
Appropriateness of the tone used (humour, sobriety)  
Presence on stage, interaction with the audience, passion, ...  
Talent for story telling (captivating the audience, awakening curiosity)  
Good time management

### **MEDIATION (7 points)**

Affordable vocabulary with no excessive scientific jargon and clear explanation of the terminology  
Clear purpose and objectives of the research  
Relevant metaphors and examples

### **SLIDE (2 points)**

Clarity, composition, aesthetic of the slide  
Added value of the slide to the speech  
Originality of the slide

### **STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION (2 points)**

Logical order in the presentation  
Good balance between the different parts (introduction, development, conclusion)

### **MY FAVORITE (2 points)**

Particularly exceptional point: