



Southern African-Nordic Centre

SANORD Central Office  
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## **SANORD Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition 2026**

### **Call for Institutional Nominations**

The **Southern African–Nordic Centre (SANORD)** invites its member universities to participate in the **SANORD Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition 2026**.

The 3MT competition was founded by The University of Queensland and is now held at universities worldwide. SANORD adheres to the official 3MT guidelines established by The University of Queensland to ensure international standards of quality, fairness, and academic excellence.

### **Important Dates**

- **05 March 2026** – Call opens for SANORD universities
- **30 April 2026** – Deadline for:
  - Conducting the local SANORD 3MT competition.
  - Selecting one institutional winner.
  - Submitting candidate and the required materials to SANORD Central Office.
- **22–25 September 2026** – Selected regional winners will present at the SANORD Annual Conference hosted by University of Namibia.

### **How to Participate**

#### **Step 1: Organise a Local SANORD 3MT Competition**

Each participating university must:

- Organise and conduct a local 3MT competition in accordance with official 3MT rules.
- Select **one institutional winner** to represent the university.

#### **Step 2: Submit the Institutional Winner**

By **30 April 2026**, the following must be submitted:

- A **3-minute presentation video**
- The **single static PowerPoint slide**
- **Candidate details (institutional winner)**

**Only submissions made via the official submission link will be accepted:**

<https://forms.gle/L8jvqVQcSFN4gu5N6>



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Submissions sent by email or outside this link will **NOT** be considered.

For enquiries, please contact the SANORD Central Office: [sanordcentraloffice@uwc.ac.za](mailto:sanordcentraloffice@uwc.ac.za)

## Prize

Two winners will be selected:

- **One from the Nordic region**
- **One from the Southern Africa region**

Each winner will receive:

- The opportunity to present at the SANORD Annual Conference
- Funding covering:
  - Return flights
  - Conference registration
  - Accommodation

## Eligibility and Rules

*(Aligned with official 3MT guidelines from The University of Queensland)*

### Eligibility

- Participants must be **currently registered PhD students** at the time of nomination.

### Presentation Rules

- A single **static PowerPoint slide** only:
  - No animations
  - No transitions
  - No movement of any kind
  - Slide must be visible from the start of the presentation
- No additional electronic media (audio/video files).
- No additional props (costumes, instruments, laboratory equipment, etc.).
- Presentations are strictly limited to **3 minutes maximum**.
- Exceeding 3 minutes results in disqualification.
- Spoken word presentations only (no poems, raps, or songs).
- Presentations must commence from the stage.
- Timing begins when movement or speech starts.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

## Judging Criteria

Judging must follow the recognised 3MT framework:

### 1 Comprehension

- Did the presentation clearly explain the research?
- Were the aims and significance outlined?
- Was the content logically structured?

### 2 Engagement

- Did the presentation spark interest?
- Was enthusiasm conveyed?
- Was the research communicated without oversimplification?
- Did the presenter maintain audience attention?

### 3 Communication

- Was the language accessible to a non-specialist audience?
- Was delivery confident (eye contact, vocal range, pace)?
- Was jargon avoided or clearly explained?
- Was time managed effectively?
- Did the slide enhance clarity and impact?

## Selecting Your Judging Panel

To ensure fairness and consistency:

- Include **3–5 judges**.
- Ensure diversity in age, gender, discipline, and professional background.
- Consider including a representative from:
  - Communications/Marketing
  - Graduate School

Judges should declare any conflict of interest but must still score all presentations.

## Example Submission



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Please refer to the 2025 Southern African winning presentation (video and slide example):  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VHGc1WWKcoPftviCecUDWPdOOHGtFet/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VHGc1WWKcoPftviCecUDWPdOOHGtFet/view?usp=drive_link)

SANORD encourages all member universities to participate in this prestigious international academic platform that showcases doctoral research excellence and strengthens collaboration across the SANORD network.

We look forward to welcoming your institution's nominee to SANORD 3MT 2026.