



THREE MINUTES THESIS

Prof. John Lawrence Dennis
Centre for Higher Education Internationalisation

Course Aims

- **Develop specialized research skills**: Students will gain expertise in conducting in-depth research within their PhD subfield, culminating in the production of an original thesis that contributes to their academic discipline.
- Enhance communication of complex research: Students will learn to effectively communicate the significance and findings of their research, presenting it in both oral and written formats with clarity and precision.
- Refine concise presentation techniques: Through participation in the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition, students will practice distilling complex ideas into accessible, engaging presentations that can be understood by a non-specialist audience.

Methodology

The course is organized into three sessions of three hours, combining theoretical input with practice-based learning. Participants will use their own doctoral research to experiment with narrative structures, rhetorical strategies, and concise communication techniques. Emphasis is placed on iterative refinement through drafting, rehearsal, and peer feedback, supported by collective discussion and reflection. Attention will be given to clarity of content, audience engagement, and the strategic use of a single visual aid. By the end of the course, students will have translated complex research into a concise and compelling presentation suitable for a broad, non-specialist audience.

Course description

During your PhD journey, you will primarily learn how to conduct in-depth research within your specialized area, culminating in the production of an original thesis. Along the way, you'll gain a deep understanding of your subfield, mastering a vast amount of specialized knowledge. However, it's equally important to effectively communicate the significance of your research and articulate your findings clearly. The ability to present your work concisely, both orally and in writing, is a valuable skill. The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition offers an excellent platform to practice and refine these communication skills, helping you distill complex research into engaging, accessible presentations.

Recommended texts

- University of Queensland. Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Official Resources & Archive.
- Heard, S. B. (2022). The Scientist's Guide to Writing (2nd ed.). Princeton University Press.
- Denicolo, P., & Reeves, J. (2014). Developing Transferable Skills: Enhancing Your Researcher Development. SAGE.