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To the PhD students of 38, 39, 40 cycles

Dear PhD student,

Within the Coimbra Group Universities, which encompasses the eldest European Universities not situated in a Capital city, the initiative called *Three Minute Thesis Competition* is in progress with the aim to involve PhD students of all partner Universities. The University of Padua enthusiastically joined in all the ninth past editions and the PhD student selected by our University in the first one was [the winner](#) of the final competition which was held in Edinburgh.

3MT Competition is an event during which the PhD students have to present their project in English in three minutes through the support of a single slide (animation-free) by proving the ability to synthesize and communicate effectively.

Each University will identify, through progressive elimination selections, its own representative and will have to send the video of the winner by March 27th to the Coimbra Group, which will select three PhD students among all the participating Universities. The three selected candidates will be invited to the final competition at the annual Coimbra Group meeting scheduled from June 18th, 2026 in Granada.

In order to identify its own representative, the University of Padua has organized an internal selection arranged in two successive steps:

- 1) Selection by the PhD Course
- 2) University final

Selection by the PhD Course:

Each PhD course will select the candidate by February 13th, 2026 organizing the first phase of selection within the course. Please ask the PhD coordinator for more information on the rules. We attach the PowerPoint template to be used for the presentation.

University final:

The participants to the final competition will attend two mandatory sessions with an expert on Public Speaking that will prepare them for the final event. These sessions will take place between February and March (specific details will be communicated directly to the participants).

The final competition will be filmed. This year there will be a technical jury and a popular jury: they will select the top three winners. The first-place winner will represent the University of Padova to the 3-Minute Thesis finals, scheduled for June in Granada.

Your participation is highly and warmly encouraged both for the international value of the initiative and for the useful exercise of summary that it involves.

For further information on the initiative, you can take a look at the call published on the [University of Edinburgh web page](#), or you can refer to our mediaspace with the video of previous editions as an example:

- [Historical, Geographical, Anthropological Studies PhD competitions](#)

Please find attached the template to be used throughout each stage of the competition.

We look forward to your active participation in the initiative.

Best wishes,

Prof. Massimiliano Zattin

Vice Rector for International Relations and
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