

Eligibility

This competition is open to all postgraduate researchers at the University of Sheffield (MPhil or PhD), who will not have had their viva by 1st August 2017.

Competition rules

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted.
- No slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description are allowed.
- The slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are to commence from the stage.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through either movement or speech.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

Judging Criteria

At every level of the competition each competitor will be judged on the three judging criteria listed below. Each criterion is equally weighted.

Comprehension

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background to the research question being addressed and its significance?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the key results of the research including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?

Engagement

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialise or generalise their research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?

Judging criteria continue on the next page.

Communication

- Was the thesis topic, key results and research significance and outcomes (where applicable) communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
- Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace; and have a confident stance?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?
- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible and concise?

If you are unclear about anything in this document, or have any questions, please email sarah.j.bell@sheffield.ac.uk