



## THESIS TALK 2026

### Terms and conditions of the call

The Doctoral School and the Vice Rectorate of Graduate Studies and Lifelong Learning at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid open the call for the 10th edition of THESIS TALK.

In THESIS TALK, PhD candidates at UC3M are invited to present their research projects to a non-specialist audience **in just 4 minutes**, focusing on the **what, how and why** of their research. A single slide is permitted to enhance their presentation.

THESIS TALK follows the guidelines of [Three Minute Thesis \(3MT\)](#), originally developed by the University of Queensland (Australia) in 2008 and replicated by more than two hundred institutions worldwide. With this activity, the Doctoral School highlights the importance of the research projects carried out in their PhD programs and promotes them on a format and language adapted to non-specialist audiences.

**THESIS TALK 2026** will be held in a blended format: a virtual preselection stage and an in-person final.

#### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

THESIS TALK 2026 is open to all our students enrolled on a Ph.D. program during the 2025-2026 academic year, including those who have participated in previous editions.

*Participation will be recognized as 2 credits of cross-curricular training.*

#### REGISTRATION

Applicants must submit their registration in two steps:

- Fill out the [registration form](#) before **March 17th 2026 (23:59 h., CEST)**
- Submit the recording of the **presentation + slide** to [escueladoctorado@uc3m.es](mailto:escueladoctorado@uc3m.es), either as attachments or via cloud storage link, before **May 6th 2026 (23:59 h., CEST)**.

*Free registration. No seat limit.*

Registration implies acceptance of the rules and evaluation criteria as well as consent for UC3M to store and share recordings of the presentations through the institutional channels of the University. Participation in this activity also requires [authorization from the thesis supervisor](#).

#### PRESENTATION FEATURES

Participants are required to submit their presentations for the preselection on a **digital format** with the following features:

- Language: Spanish or English (minimum level of language proficiency required: C1 or equivalent).
- Time limit: **4 minutes**. Presentations over that limit will be disregarded.
- Participants can freely choose the title of the presentation. It can also be different from that of the thesis.
- A **single static** slide (PowerPoint or similar) is permitted. The slide **cannot** feature any **dynamic** elements (transitions, animations...), participant's **name, title** of presentation or any academic or professional **affiliations**.
- The slide will not be inserted in the video but submitted to the Doctoral School as a separate file to be edited later.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) is permitted.
- No additional props (costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations must be spoken (no poems, raps or songs). Quotes can be included if relevant to the thesis topic.

## STAGES OF THE CONTEST

### Pre-selection (estimated dates: second half of May)

Once the registration has been completed, the videos will be processed confidentially and made available only for the members of the Jury designated by the Dean of the Doctoral School. The Jury will evaluate the videos and select a shortlist of 15\* participants to qualify for the final. The videos will be available for the public then.

*\*Subject to change according to the Jury's criteria.*

### Final (estimated date: **June 10th 2026**)

Finalists will deliver their presentation in-person in front of a Jury of experts who will evaluate them according to the criteria listed below and choose the three best presentations. The Jury's decision will be announced at the end of the final.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

- The presentation focuses on research work and personal contribution.
- The presentation provides understanding of background and significance of research.
- The presentation describes methodology and key results of research.
- The presentation follows a clear, logical sequence.
- The presenter uses an appropriate language for a non-specialist audience.
- The presenter does not trivialize research.
- The presenter captures the attention of the audience: presence, eye contact, vocal range, pace, confident stance.
- The slide enhances the contents of the presentation

## JURY

The Jury will be composed by experts from different disciplines, appointed as such by the Director of the Doctoral School.

The Jury will inform their decision at the end of the final event.

**PRIZES**

First prize: 900 euros

Second prize: 600 euros

Third prize: 300 euros

*Prizes are subject to current tax legislation.*

More information: [www.uc3m.es/phdprogram/thesis-talk-2026](http://www.uc3m.es/phdprogram/thesis-talk-2026)

**The Rector of Universidad Carlos III de Madrid**

**RESOLVES:**

To publish the call for the Prizes Thesis Talk 2026 under the conditions specified above, as announced on the Contest Rules by the Doctoral School and the Vice Rectorate of Graduate Studies.

At Getafe, on the date of electronic signature.

The Rector  
Prof. Ángel Arias Hernández