

Universitat Internacional de Catalunya
Doctoral School

Call for the “Present Your Thesis in 4 Minutes” competition (9th edition)

The Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation (FCRI) and the Government of Catalonia’s Ministry of Research and Universities, via the Interuniversity Council of Catalonia, and in cooperation with the twelve Catalan universities, the Vic Municipal Council and the Pilarin Bayés Library, are hosting the 2026 edition of the science communication competition **Present Your Thesis in 4 Minutes**.

This interuniversity competition is open to doctoral students from any discipline and challenges them to present their research in no more than 4 minutes, using clear language that may be understood by a non-specialist audience.

The competition is divided into two phases. In the first phase, each university holds its own internal competition to select the candidate who will represent that particular institution. In the second, the FCRI will organise the final public competition with representatives from all Catalan universities.

In accordance with the rules of the FCRI’s competition, the **Doctoral School at Universitat Internacional de Catalunya will organise an internal competition: *Present Your Thesis in 4 Minutes***.

1. PARTICIPANTS

All doctoral students who meet the following conditions are eligible to participate:

- a. They must be in at least year two of their doctoral programme and actively enrolled.
- b. They may not have defended their thesis.
- c. They must undertake to be present at the final competition organised by the FCRI on **11 June at 17.00**, in the Pilarin Bayés Library auditorium **in the city of Vic**.
- d. They may not have participated in past editions.

Registration requirements

- Registration in the competition using the form.
- Submission of the thesis supervisor’s acceptance and approval.
- Commitment from the doctoral student to be present on the day of the competition, 13 May 2026, on the Barcelona Campus at UIC Barcelona, as remote participation is not permitted.
- Commitment from the doctoral student to withhold any confidential information related to their research during the public presentation. Neither UIC Barcelona nor the FCRI may be held responsible for any non-compliance on the part of the participants.

2. UNIVERSITY ELIMINATION PHASE: INTERNAL COMPETITION AT UIC BARCELONA

The rules during the competition presentation are as follows:

- It will be given in an open, public session.

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- During the competition presentation, consideration must be given to the following:
 - o Maximum length of 4 minutes. Any presentation that exceeds this time will be automatically eliminated.
 - o **A maximum of two static slides** may be projected.
 - o **Video, sound**, musical instruments, costumes and similar items are prohibited.
 - o While the use of certain support material is allowed, participants are advised to keep it to a minimum.
 - o Presentations may only be done in Catalan, Spanish or English.
 - o The presentation is considered to have begun when the participant starts speaking.
 - o Notes or written prompts are not recommended.
 - o A brief or humorous quote may be used.

3. JURY AND COMPETITION ASSESSMENT

The jury will be comprised of PDI and PAS from UIC Barcelona chosen by the Doctoral School's Executive Committee. Each member of the jury will assess the participant individually, in accordance with the FCRI-established criteria, with scores ranging from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).

1. Comprehension and content

- During the presentation, the participant demonstrated a clear understanding of the research context and its importance.
- The presentation clearly described the study's key findings, including conclusions and results.
- The presentation followed a clear and logical order.
- The thesis topic, the key results and their significance and the research findings were communicated appropriately to a non-specialist audience.
- The participant avoided scientific jargon, explained the terminology and provided suitable background information to illustrate key points.
- The participant devoted sufficient time to each presentation element, without spending too much time on any one element. The presentation was not too fast.

2. Commitment and communication

- The participant did not trivialise or generalise their research.
- The participant conveyed a sense of enthusiasm for the research.
- The participant captured and maintained the audience's attention.
- The participant demonstrated a strong stage presence, maintained eye contact and vocal range, kept a steady pace and exhibited confidence.
- The PowerPoint slide improved the presentation: it was clear, legible and concise.



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4. COMPETITION WINNER

The participant with the highest score will be named the competition winner. In the event of a tie, the jury will deliberate and select a winner. The jury will announce its decision at the end of the session and inform the FCRI of who will represent UIC Barcelona in the final.

5. UIC BARCELONA PHASE PRIZES

The **Doctoral School** will award three prizes:

- First prize: €100 gift voucher to FNAC + waiver of the administrative fees required to deposit and defend thesis
- Second prize: €100 gift voucher
- Audience prize: institutional gift
- Thesis in Catalan Prize: institutional gift **Only theses submitted in Catalan are eligible*

7. FCRI FINAL PHASE PRIZES

The participant who wins first prize in the internal phase may compete for the prizes awarded by the FCRI in the final phase of the competition.

- First prize: €2,500
- Second prize: €1,500
- Third prize: €1,000
- Audience prize: €1,000
- Special Mention Assumpció Català i Poch for promoting and supporting the Catalan language: €1,000
*(Plan to Strengthen the Catalan Language) *Only for theses submitted in Catalan.*

** In the event the same person wins First Prize and the Audience Prize, First Prize will be awarded to the participant selected by the jury, while the Audience Prize will go to the participant with the **second**-highest number of votes.*

FOR INFORMATION ON THE GENERAL RULES AND FINAL PHASE PRIZES, PLEASE SEE THE FCRI'S CALL: <https://tesi4minuts.fundaciorecerca.cat/index.asp>