

Universitat Internacional de Catalunya
Doctoral School

Competition “Describe your thesis in 4 minutes”

Competition call

The Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation (FCRi) has organised an interuniversity competition aimed at doctoral students from any discipline. The challenge is to describe their research project in a maximum of 4 minutes in simple language that can easily be understood by members of the general public.

The competition will be held in two stages. In the first stage, every participating university will hold its own internal disqualifying call with the aim of selecting the candidate who will represent each individual university. In the second stage, the FCRi will organise the final public part of the competition to be held between all universities in Catalonia. This will take place in June.

Based on the terms and conditions of the competition organised by the FCRi, the UIC Barcelona Doctoral School now announces a call for the following internal competition:
Describe your thesis in 4 minutes.

1. Participants

All students on doctoral programmes who meet the following requirements can participate: they must be a **doctoral student in second year at least with enrolment that is in force and paid for** (doctoral students enrolled for the first time during academic years 14-15, 15-16 and 16-17) **and who have not yet defended their thesis.**

Requirements to sign up

- Sign up for the competition using our form.
- Presentation of the acceptance and approval of the thesis supervisor.
- A commitment from the doctoral student to be present on the day of the competition, since participation from afar is not permitted.
- A commitment from the doctoral student to omit any confidential information or data related to the research during the public presentation. Neither UIC Barcelona or the FCRi will be held responsible if these requirements are not fulfilled by participants.

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2. Deadlines

- The deadline for registration and providing the corresponding documentation is 20 March 2018.
- The list of participants will be published on 2 April 2018.
- The UIC Barcelona edition of the competition will be held on 4 May 2018.
- The competition FINAL will be held in June 2018.

3. Specific university disqualification stage: internal UIC Barcelona competition

The rules during the presentation of the competition are as follows:

1. A single, open and public session will be held on 4 May 2018.
2. Participants will appear in alphabetical order.
3. The following rules must be taken into account at the competition presentation:
 - The maximum duration is 4 minutes. Anyone who goes over this time will be automatically disqualified.
 - It is recommended that you don't project more than two static slides.
 - No videos or sound are allowed; neither are musical instruments or any type of costumes.
 - You can use some material to accompany you. It is recommended that this be minimal.
 - Presentations will only be accepted in Catalan, Spanish or English.
 - As soon as a participant begins to speak it will be considered that the presentation has begun.
 - Notes on paper or on your hands are not recommended.
 - A brief or humorous quote can be used.

4. Jury and competition evaluation

The jury consists of three UIC Barcelona lecturers chosen by the Doctoral School's Management Committee. Each member of the jury will give an individual evaluation of the contestant, based on the same criteria set out by the FCRI that will be marked from 1 (minimum) to 5 (maximum).

I. Comprehension and content

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- The presentation provided an understanding of the precedents to the research question being tackled and their importance.
- The presentation clearly described the key points of the research, including the conclusions and results.
- The presentation followed a clear and logical sequence.
- The subject of the thesis, the key results and its meaning were communicated well, and the results of the research were communicated in a suitable manner to a non-specialist audience.
- The participant avoided scientific jargon, explained the terminology and provided suitable in-depth information to illustrate their points.
- The participant dedicated a suitable amount of time to each element of their presentation, without any specific aspect being dealt with over a period of time that’s too long. The presentation was not given too quickly.

II. Commitment and communication

- The participant did not trivialise or generalise their research too much.
- The participant transmitted enthusiasm.
- The participant captured and maintained the audience’s attention.
- The participant demonstrated sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; they maintained a consistent rhythm and showed confidence.
- The PowerPoint slides improved the presentation: they were clear, legible and concise.

5. Competition winner

The participant with the highest mark will be named the winner of this competition. If there is a draw, the jury will deliberate and choose a winner. The jury’s verdict will be given at the end of the session and the name of the candidate who will be representing UIC Barcelona during the Final will be provided to the FCRI.

6. Prizes

The UIC Barcelona Doctoral School will give the winner a fee waiver for the 2018-2019 academic year tuition fees.

The FCRI will award three prizes:

- 1st prize: €3.000
- 2nd prize: €2.000
- Audience prize: €1.000