



No-Bell Prize Competition

Entrant Guidelines 2025

The 2025 No-Bell Prize Competition, hosted by the Melbourne School of Health Sciences, is an opportunity for graduate researchers enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences to practice succinctly communicating their research to a general audience using language free of jargon in a friendly and supportive environment.

To Apply:

Eligible applicants must submit a 90-second video. The top presenters will progress to the No-Bell Prize Final. In the Final, participants will:

1. Present for one minute
2. Face three minutes of questions from the host
3. Answer one minute of questions from the audience

This comprises a total of five minutes per finalist.

During the Presentation:

- A panel will note each instance of jargon, overly technical language, or unexplained acronyms.
- An official timekeeper will count the number of notes per speaker.
- The participant with the least notes and highest panel score wins each round.

Prizes:

Finalists compete for cash prizes, including:

- \$1,000 for the No-Bell Prize winner
- \$500 each for the two runners-up
- A People's Choice Award

Key Dates:

- Entries Open: 9th June 2025
- **Entries Close: 27th July 2025 at 5 PM**
- Finalists Announced: Mid-August 2025
- Finalists' One-on-One Coaching: 2nd and 3rd September 2025
- **Final Event: Wednesday, 1st October, 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

Eligibility:

The competition is open to students currently enrolled in an eligible graduate research degree (PhD, Master of Philosophy, Masters of Research, Doctor of Medical Science) within the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences.

Application Process:

1. **Register and Submit Video** by the deadline via the [No-Bell Prize Registration Form](#). Submit a 90-second video about your research.
2. **Video Assessment:** Submissions will be assessed by a selection panel based on the judging criteria. The highest-ranked videos will be selected as finalists.

3. **Workshop:** All students can access a communications skills workshop on July 4th to develop research presentation skills for their videos.
4. **Finalists:** Selected finalists will present in person on October 1st and receive tailored coaching on September 2nd and 3rd.

> **Note:** Submitted videos will only be used by the selection panel to choose finalists and will not be made available outside this process.

Recording Guidelines:

- Videos can focus on one study, result, or an overview of your research project.
- Present within the 90-second time limit. Content after 90 seconds will not be considered.
- Ensure you are clearly visible, and the audio is clear. Audio-only entries are not permitted.
- No slides, props, costumes, or lab equipment are allowed.
- The audio must be continuous with no edits or breaks.
- Only video format submissions will be accepted.

Judging Criteria:

- **Comprehension and Content:** Clear research context, significance, potential impact, and logical sequence.
- **Engagement and Communication:** Clear delivery, appropriate language for a non-specialist audience, avoidance of jargon, sufficient background information, enthusiasm, audience engagement, stage presence, eye contact, vocal range, steady pace, and confident stance.

Registering to Compete:

Eligible graduate researchers must submit their videos and complete the questions via the [No-Bell Prize Registration Form](#).

> **Note:** Video files may take up to 5 minutes to load onto the form. If you have trouble, contact Bang Bui at shs-research@unimelb.edu.au. Do not send videos to this email address.

Resources:

Find tips on recording your presentation here (excluding slides):

<https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/3mt-video-recording-competitor-guide>

Presenting in the Final:

If selected as a finalist, you will present your research in person for five minutes, including:

1. One minute to introduce your research
2. Three minutes of questions from the host
3. One minute of questions from the audience

You must not use slides or props. Finalists will receive two additional seats for guests.

More Information:

Contact the team at shs-research@unimelb.edu.au