



Participation rules for the first phase of the 2024 (7th edition) “Present your thesis in 4 minutes” contest

1. Organizer

The Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (hereinafter, UOC), through its Doctoral School, is organizing the first phase of the 2024 (7th edition) “Present your thesis in 4 minutes” contest.

The UOC is a public-service university controlled by a private Spanish foundation, the Fundació per a la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (hereinafter, “FUOC”), holder of tax ID No. (CIF) G-60667813, with corporate address at Rambla del Poblenou, no. 154-156, Barcelona, as set out in Law 3/1995, of 6/April, recognizing the UOC, published in the *Official Gazette of the Government of Catalonia* (DOGC) No. 2040 of 21 April 1995.

The 2024 (7th edition) “Present your thesis in 4 minutes” contest is being organized by the *Fundació Catalana per a la Recerca i la Innovació* (hereinafter, FCRI), with the support of the Government of Catalonia. The following Catalan universities will participate: Abat Oliba CEU University (UAO), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), University of Barcelona (UB), University of Girona (UdG), University of Lleida (UdL), University of Vic - Central University of Catalonia (UVic-UCC), Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC), Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), Ramon Llull University (URL) and Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV).

Each participating Catalan university will hold its own initial phase to select the candidate for the final phase of the contest, in which the 12 finalist doctoral students from each of the participating Catalan universities will compete.

The FCRI is organizing the final phase of the contest, which will take place in Tarragona (at the *CaixaForum Tarragona*) on 27 June 2024 (time to be confirmed) and be a single session open to the public, with the 12 finalists previously mentioned competing. The FCRI reserves

the right to cancel or postpone the date of the final phase provided that there are justified grounds for this decision.

There are three prize categories in the final phase: first prize (€3,000), second prize (€2,000) and the public prize (€1,000). This year, the Assumpció Català i Poch special mention for the promotion and encouragement of the Catalan language, within the framework of the ***Pla d'enfortiment de la llengua catalana en el sistema universitari i de recerca de Catalunya*** (Plan for the strengthening of the Catalan language in the university and research system of Catalonia), will be awarded and only theses presented in Catalan will be eligible to compete. An outstanding contribution to the promotion of scientific culture in our country will be valued, through the transmission of contents of dissemination value in the Catalan language aimed at the general public. In the case of coincidence between one of the prizes voted by the Jury and the public prize, the prize awarded will be the one with the highest amount of money and the public prize will be given to the next finalist with the highest number of votes.

The aim of the contest is to give the doctoral students, from any discipline, the challenge of explaining their doctoral thesis' research in under four minutes in plain language that is easy for the general public to understand. The purpose of this initiative is for the young scientists to reach out to society and to promote their interest in disseminating science.

2. Object of the call to participate in the first phase of the contest

As part of the 2024 (7th edition) "Present your thesis in 4 minutes" contest (<https://www.fundaciorecerca.cat/en/dissemination-communication/thesis-in-4-minuts>), the UOC is organizing an initial qualifying round in order to select and reward the respective candidate who will participate in the final phase of the contest.

The UOC and its Doctoral School want to encourage the UOC's doctoral students to improve their abilities and techniques for conveying and disseminating knowledge in easy-to-understand terms. This will help future researchers become aware of the importance of communicating scientific knowledge to a lay audience, in line with the universities' role as a public service, as they learn how to tell a non-specialist audience about the science, knowledge and research done at the UOC.

The doctoral students' participation in the first phase will be recorded in their activity reports and will help improve their oral expression.

3. Participation conditions

In order to participate in this year's contest, anyone submitting an entry form must fulfil the following requirements and conditions:

- Be at least a second-year UOC doctoral student, with an active and paid-up enrolment.
- Not have defended the thesis before submitting the entry form.
- Have the approval of the thesis supervisor/s to participate and present the doctoral thesis' content at the contest.
- Agree to participate on-site in the first phase, or by virtual means synchronously (through videoconferencing over Google Meet) in case it is not possible in person, once the application has been accepted, and attend the final event, which must be in person as remote participation is not allowed, in case of winning (please note that in this scenario the Doctoral School will only cover, as a maximum, the cost of the round trip, to participate in the final phase, from the UOC's campus in the Poblenou district of Barcelona to the city of Tarragona).
- During the public presentation, agree not to divulge any confidential data, document or information relative to the doctoral thesis. Neither the UOC nor the FCRI shall be liable in the event of breach by participants.

4. Procedure

A group of candidates will be selected from those fulfilling the requirements established in the previous section to participate in the initial qualifying round, which will take place on 9 May 2024 in a face-to-face, single, open and public session, at 11 am CEST (Barcelona (Spain) time, UTC+2), in the Conference Room on floor 0 of the UOC's Interdisciplinary R&I Hub building (Rambla del Poblenou, 154, 08018 de Barcelona). Participation may also be by virtual means synchronously (through videoconferencing over Google Meet) if it is not possible in person and with the commitment to participate face-to-face in the final event in case of winning. The Doctoral School reserves the right to cancel or postpone the date of the initial qualifying round provided that there are justified grounds for this decision. The candidates will speak in random order, of which they will be notified in advance, and the jury will make its decision at the end of the session, notifying the FCRI.

Participants must comply with the following rules during the presentation of their thesis (the same as for the public presentation of the final phase):

- They will have a maximum of four minutes to present their doctoral thesis. Participants who exceed the four minutes will be automatically disqualified.

- The presentation will be deemed to have started when the participant starts speaking.
- The presentation may be given in Catalan, Spanish or English.
- Only a maximum of two static slides may be projected to support the presentation.
- Not allowed video, sound, musical instruments, costumes, etc.
- Some material is admitted. It is recommended the minimum.
- Using notes or markings on the hand is not recommended.
- A brief or amusing quote may be used.

5. Application periods

The period for submitting entries will begin on 8 April 2024 and will end on 23 April 2024.

On 24 April 2024, applications will be checked to ensure they meet the requirements stipulated in section 3 of the present rules, and a provisional list of the admitted and excluded participants will be published on the web page

(http://symposium.uoc.edu/go/primera_fase_concurs_presenta_tesi_en_4_minuts_2024).

From the day after publication of the provisional list, candidates will have five working days to submit appeals and amendments, which should be sent to the e-mail address phd_school@uoc.edu.

On 3 May 2024, the final list of candidates taking part in the first phase of the contest will be published on the web page

(http://symposium.uoc.edu/go/primera_fase_concurs_presenta_tesi_en_4_minuts_2024) and they will be personally informed of the procedure and the order of intervention.

Who the jury finally names as the winning participant will be made public on 9 May 2024, as well as the presentation selected by public vote.

6. Assessment criteria

The jury will adopt the following criteria to assess the participants:

1. Comprehension and content (70% of the total score)	
Criterion	Mark: From 1 (minimum) to 5 (maximum)
The presentation clearly explained the background to the research project carried out and its importance.	

The presentation clearly described the key results of the research project, including the conclusions and the results.	
The presentation followed a clear and logical sequence.	
The subject of the thesis, the key results of the research and their significance were explained in an appropriate manner to a non-specialized audience.	
The participant avoided using scientific jargon, has explained the terminology and provided adequate background information to illustrate points.	
The participant spent adequate time on each element of the presentation, and did not spend too much time on any specific aspect. The presentation was not given too quickly.	

2. Commitment and communication (30% of the total score)	
Criterion	Mark: From 1 (minimum) to 5 (maximum)
The participant did not trivialize or over-generalize the research project.	
The participant showed enthusiasm for the research project.	
The participant captured and held the attention of the audience.	
The participant had sufficient stage presence, visual contact and vocal range, maintained a constant rhythm and displayed confidence.	
The PowerPoint slide has improved the presentation: it was clear, readable and concise.	

7. Jury

The members of the jury will be:

- David Masip Rodó, director of the Doctoral School, who will chair the jury.
- Iolanda García González, director of the doctoral programme in Education and ICT (e-Learning), as member.
- Rubén Nieto Luna, director of the doctoral programme in Health and Psychology, as member.

- Carles Prado Fonts, director of the doctoral programme in Humanities and Communication, as member.
- Neus Rotger Cerdà, professor at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, as member.
- Anna Civit de Sanz, communication expert at UOC, as member.

The jury will assess the candidates, according to the criteria established in sections 4 and 6 of the present rules, and the one who obtains the highest mark will win first prize. In the case of a tie, the chair will have a casting vote to decide the winner. Once all the presentations have been made by the participants, the jury will retire to deliberate before announcing the winning participant to the public and the FCRI.

8. Prizes

The selected participants will receive the following prizes:

- The doctoral participant selected by the jury: a prize of €500. Apart from being the person who will represent the UOC in the final phase of the contest, which will compete with the finalists from each of the participating Catalan universities.
- The doctoral participant selected by public vote: a Kindle eBook valued at €135.14.

The prizes cannot be exchanged, changed or compensated at the request of participants, nor can they be replaced with money.

The public attending the initial qualifying round in person will be able to vote for the presentation they liked most via the website <https://www.sli.do/>. The candidate with the most votes will be considered the public's choice and also receive a prize. In the case of coincidence between the prize voted by the Jury and that of the public, the public prize will be awarded to the next most voted finalist.

The names and surnames of the winning participants in this first phase will be published on the website (http://symposium.uoc.edu/go/primera_fase_concurs_presenta_tesi_en_4_minuts_2024) and on the UOC's various communication channels.

9. Tax treatment of the prizes

Given that the value of the prize money is in excess of €300, the prize will be subject to the mandatory tax withholdings established in income tax regulation (hereinafter, IRPF) in favour of the Spanish tax administration (*Agència Tributària*). The UOC will withhold the mandatory IRPF tax amount from the winner and issue the winner a certificate with details of the prize and the tax withholdings.

10. Acceptance of the rules

Those interested in participating in this contest should complete the entry form available on the website

(http://symposium.uoc.edu/go/primera_fase_concurs_presenta_tesi_en_4_minuts_2024).

Participation in the present edition is free and implies acceptance of the present rules. The partial or total breach of these rules by the participant will provide sufficient reason for the participating candidate's disqualification from the contest.

The organizers reserve the right to cancel the first stage or declare it void provided that there are justified grounds for this decision. The organization is exonerated from any obligation or compensation to participating candidates if, for reasons of force majeure, legal requirements or other organizational criteria, the contest has to be cancelled or suspended.

11. Dissemination and intellectual property

The participating candidate guarantees to UOC that he or she is the author or holder of the moral and exploitation intellectual and industrial property rights of the doctoral thesis, material and/or slides with which he or she participates, and guarantees that they do not violate intellectual and industrial property rights, image rights or confidential information owned by third parties.

In the event that the provided material incorporates content or resources owned by third parties, the participating candidate guarantees to UOC that, with regard to these, he or she has the corresponding authorizations or permits for their use within the framework of this call. Likewise, in the event that the projects contain images and/or the voice of identified or identifiable people, the participating candidate guarantees, if applicable, that he or she has their express consent, and that they have been previously informed of these bases and of the consequences of the use of their image or voice within the framework of their participation in these awards.

UOC is exonerated from any liability arising from non-compliance or defective compliance with these bases and from claims by third parties for the violation of intellectual, industrial and/or image property rights, reserving the right to exclude project proposals from the award that infringe any rights of third parties. In the event that UOC is sued or summoned by a third party due to the violation of intellectual or industrial property rights, the participant will bear all legal costs and compensations for damages, if applicable.

By accepting these participation rules, the participating candidate authorizes UOC to publicly display the slides with which he or she participates in the face-to-face event that will be used

in the public presentation of their thesis, as well as the recording of the different events, its broadcast through streaming and its incorporation into the resulting audiovisual work that will be published by UOC through its official channels. The participating candidate transfers his or her image rights, and, on a non-exclusive basis, the necessary exploitation rights over his or her intervention and material or slides, with the sole purpose of allowing UOC to carry out the promoted event, as well as its subsequent dissemination, in the conditions established in this document.

12. Data protection

This contest is governed by the following data protection policy:

In compliance with Organic Law 3/2018, of December 5, on the protection of personal data and guarantee of digital rights, and article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of April 27, regarding the protection of natural persons regarding the processing of personal data and the free circulation of this data (known as the General Data Protection Regulation, RGPD), participants are informed of the following aspects:

Responsible of treatment

The Fundació per a la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (hereinafter, "UOC"), with address at Rambla del Poblenou, 154-156, Barcelona.

If you have any questions about the treatment of personal data, please contact the data protection officer at dpd@uoc.edu.

Purpose of treatment

Personal data will be processed for the purposes of:

- Organise, manage and resolve the contest, in accordance with the provisions of these rules.
- Publish the name and surname of the winners to the Symposium and in the UOC's own media for the purposes of disseminating and communicating the result of the contest.
- Communicate the contact information of the first prize winner to the FCRI to convey their participation in the final phase.

Lawful basis

The execution of a contract, which is signed with the acceptance of these regulatory bases of the contest.

Conservation period

Once the indicated purposes have ended, the UOC must retain the blocked personal data for the period necessary to comply with the legal obligations that may generate legal responsibilities related to the purposes that have been indicated. When these responsibilities expire, personal data will have to be permanently deleted.

Recipients

Personal data may be communicated to comply with the legal obligations that apply in each case.

Likewise, the UOC has several providers that assist it in the execution of different tasks related to the processing of personal data.

Security measures implemented to protect personal data

The UOC treats personal data in an absolutely confidential manner. Likewise, it has implemented appropriate technical and organizational measures to guarantee the security of this data and prevent destruction, illicit access or illicit alteration. When determining these measures, criteria such as the scope, context and purposes of the treatment, the state of the art and the existing risks have been taken into account.

Rights of interested parties

Interested persons have the following rights regarding data protection:

Right	Right
Right of access	Check what personal data is held.
Right of rectification	Modify the personal data you have when it is not accurate.
Right of opposition	Request that personal data not be processed for some specific purposes.
Right of not to be the object of a decision based solely on automated processing	Request that you not be subject to a decision based solely on automated data processing, including profiling, that produces legal effects on the person or significantly affects them in a similar way.
Right to erasure	Request that personal data be deleted.
Right to limitation	Request that the processing of personal data be limited.
Right to portability	Request that the information you have be released in a computer format.

Right to submit a claim before
the Data Protection Authority

Without prejudice to the exercise of your rights before the data
controller, file a claim with the competent authority to defend
your rights through the website
<https://apdcat.gencat.cat/en/inici/>.

To exercise these rights, it is enough that you send us a communication to the Fundació per a la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, either by email to the address fuoc_pd@uoc.edu or by postal mail to the address Rambla del Poblenou, 154-156, Barcelona, with the reference "Data Protection" attaching, where appropriate, a copy of your DNI or other equivalent identification document, as well as the minimum content provided for in the applicable regulations. If the application does not meet the specified requirements, you may be required to amend it. The exercise of these rights is free, although a fee may be charged when requests are unfounded, excessive or repetitive.

13. Applicable law and jurisdiction

The present rules are governed by Spanish legislation.

Any disputes or litigation arising from these rules and the prizes awarded will be resolved by the courts of the City of Barcelona. Participating candidates waive any other jurisdiction that may apply to them.

Signed,

Xavier Vilajosana Guillen
Vice Rector for Research, Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship
UNIVERSITAT OBERTA DE CATALUNYA