



No-Bell Prize Competition Entrant Guidelines 2024

The 2024 No-Bell Prize Competition, hosted by the Melbourne Medical School and the Melbourne Dental School, 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.

Eligible applicants will compete in initial rounds of the competition (heats). These heats will comprise of up to ten participants, with the **top presenters from each heat progressing to the No-Bell Prize Final**. In each round, including the Final, participants will present for one minute, followed by three minutes of questions from the host and one minute of questions from the audience to comprise a total of five minutes.

During the five-minute presentation, a panel will note each time they hear jargon such as language which is too technical or acronyms that are not widely understood. An official will keep time and count the number of notes per speaker.

The participant with the least notes during their presentation and the highest score from the panel will be the winner of each round. Participants who progress to the Final will be competing for cash prizes including \$1,000 for the No-Bell Prize winner and \$500 each for the two runners-up, along with a People's Choice Award.

Key Dates:

Entries open:	Wednesday 24 April
Entries close:	Friday 17 May at 5pm
Competition Heats:	July 2024 (specific details to be advised)
Final No-Bell Prize event:	Wednesday 21 August 2:00PM – 4:30PM

Eligibility:

The competition is open to:

- Students who are 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:

Applicants must register to compete and submit a video as detailed below. Submissions will be assessed in line with judging criteria.

These videos will be used by the selection panel to progress applicants to the next stage of the competition and will not be made available outside of this process. Shortlisted applicants will be given the opportunity to develop their research-related communication and presentation skills through tailored coaching and will be invited to participate in initial rounds of the competition (heats). Heats will be in person. The highest placing participants through the heats will progress to the No-Bell Prize Final event and present in person on Wednesday 21 August between 2:00-4.30pm.

To participate in this competition, eligible graduate researchers must apply via the No-Bell Prize application form by the deadline of **5pm Friday 17 May**. Applicants will need to submit a short video (up to 90 seconds) about their research via the application form.

Recording guidelines:

- The 90 second videos can focus on one study, one result, or an overview of a whole research project. Whatever the topic, it must be presented within the time limit.
- Applicants will not be judged on video/recording quality or editing capabilities; rather, submissions will be assessed on content based on the judging criteria below.
- Applicants must make sure they are clearly visible and the audio is clear. Audio-only entries are not permitted. No slides or props (like costumes or lab equipment) are to be used.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through speech. Content delivered after the 90 second mark will not be considered by the selection panel. The audio must be continuous, with no sound edits or breaks. No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted within the video recording.
- Submissions must be made via a video format. Files sent in other formats will not be accepted.
- The decision of the selection panel is final.

Judging criteria:

Comprehension and content

- The presentation provided clear research context, significance, and potential impact.
- The presentation followed a clear and logical sequence.

Engagement and communication

- The presentation was delivered clearly, and the language used was appropriate for a non-specialist audience.
- The speaker avoided scientific jargon, explained terminology, and provided adequate background information to illustrate points.
- The presenter conveyed enthusiasm for their research and captured and maintained the audience's attention.
- The speaker had sufficient "stage presence", eye contact and vocal range; the speaker maintained a steady pace and had a confident stance.

Registering to Compete

To register to compete in this Competition, eligible graduate research students must submit their videos via the No-Bell Prize Application Form and complete the questions in the Form.

Please note that video files may take a while to load onto the form. The submit button appears greyed out until the video loads, which may take up to five minutes. If you are having trouble with the form, please contact Glovuse Calleja via mms-research@unimelb.edu.au. Do not send your video to this email address – all entries must be submitted via the form.

Resources:

You can find some tips on recording your presentation here (noting that these videos do not include a slide): <https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/3mt-video-recording-competitor-guide>

Presenting in the Competition

If selected to present in the No Bell Prize heats, you will be asked to present your research in person for five minutes, which includes one minute to introduce your research, three minutes of questions from the host, and one minute of questions from the audience. You must not use slides or other props. Presenters who progress through the heats will be invited to present at the No-Bell Prize Final event to compete for the competition's prizes. The No-Bell Prize winner will be awarded to the five-minute presentation with the highest scores from the panel and least amount of jargon.

If you progress to the final competition, you will also be offered two additional seats at the No-Bell Prize event for anyone you would like to invite to support you on the day.

For more information:

If you need more information, please contact the team via: mms-research@unimelb.edu.au.