PhD Thesis Presentation Contest

Application closing date is 20 May 2019. Finalists will be informed by the end of June 2019. Apply by sending your CV per e-mail to info (at) ukrainet.eu and filling the application form here: https://www.surveymonkey.de/r/3F3LJLB

The Final will be carried out on **19 September** in **Tübingen**, Germany within the framework of the Days of Ukraine in Baden-Württemberg (19-20 September 2019) and along with the Annual meeting of the German-Ukrainian Academic Society (Die Deutsch-Ukrainische Akademische Gesellschaft e.V.).

Organiser: **German-Ukrainian Academic Society/ The UKRAINE Network** (ukrainet.eu)
Supporters: **Nomad Bioscience GmbH** and the **Embassy of Ukraine in Germany**
Contact: Head of the Organisation Committee, Prof. Olga Garaschuk, University of Tübingen, Germany (e-mail for any enquiries: info (at) ukrainet.eu)

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1. What is this Contest about?

Thousands of students from Ukraine study and receive research training outside of Ukraine. At the same time, the overall visibility of this talented next generation of professionals and scientists remains rather under-appreciated, both abroad and in Ukraine. There are also many PhD students who work on joint bi-lateral or international collaborative projects, or carry out research on topics related to Ukraine – e.g. its history, language, ecology, etc.

Our PhD Thesis Presentation Contest aims to promote these young scientists and in doing so contribute to increasing the visibility of Ukrainian PhD students abroad and raising the profile of the international academic collaboration with Ukraine. This Contest offers the opportunity to PhD students to advance their presentation skills, learn to present complex scientific questions to a broader interested non-specialist audience and network with other researchers from different fields. Successful candidates will be invited to present their research at the Final event on stage,

and get a chance to win one of the three prizes (1st place: EUR 300, 2nd place: EUR 200, 3rd place: EUR 100) as well as add an extra credential to their CVs. The travel (up to 200 EUR) and stay in Tübingen (up to 2 nights) will be supported by the Society.

This Contest was organised for the first time in 2016 (http://ukrainet.eu/phd-contest/). Up to 6 finalists will be pre-selected by the Contest's organising committee, based on the submitted applications (see below *Point 8. How to apply*).

This Contest is organised by the German-Ukrainian Academic Society/ The UKRAINE Network and supported by Nomad Bioscience GmbH and the Embassy of Ukraine in Germany. The main goals of the UKRAINE Network are:

- FOSTERING academic cooperation with Ukraine;
- SUPPORTING reforms in Ukrainian science;
- IMPROVING knowledge about Ukraine abroad.

2.   Who can participate?

PhD students (MD students are also eligible) carrying out their research in any subject are eligible to apply for participation in the Contest. In particular we invite PhD students from one or more following groups to apply:

- Ukrainian PhD students carrying out their research outside of Ukraine (incl. exchange PhD students);
- PhD students, regardless of nationality, who are involved in a collaborative (e.g. German-Ukrainian or multi-lateral, including Ukraine) research project;
- PhD students, regardless of nationality, whose topic of research relates to Ukraine.

Please note: only those PhD students whose PhD defence/viva is planned after the PhD Contest Final date (**19 September 2019**) can be considered (i.e. candidates who have already defended or are expected to defend their PhD thesis prior to the PhD Contest Final are not eligible to apply).

If you have questions or any doubts about your eligibility, please contact us at info (at) ukrainet.eu.

3.   What are the rules of the competition[1]?
- Contestants present their own research work, which is a part of their current PhD thesis.
- The presentation should last no longer than **5 minutes.** Competitors exceeding 5 minutes will be disqualified.
- The presentation should be understandable for educated non-specialist audience. The main points to be addressed are recommended to reflect the so-called "CAR"-principle:
  - ➢ **Challenge** – what is the key challenge of your research project?
  - ➢ **Approach** – what (novel) methods are used/ being developed to address the challenge?
  - ➢ **Result** – what major results are achieved/ expected, and why it is important.

You are invited to watch the winners of similar contests here for inspiration: http://threeminutethesis.org/3mt-showcase.

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[1] Rules for this competition have been adapted from the 3-Minute Thesis Competition regulations (http://threeminutethesis.org/index.html?page=191546&pid=193447).

- **A maximum of 2 slides** (ppt, pdf, or other formats) are permitted to support the presentation.
  - ➢ The first slide should contain basic information about the contestant (name, place of birth, where and what the candidate has studied so far, where the research work is being conducted, who are the project supervisor/s and if this is a collaborative research project with partners in Ukraine). No information on any personal awards is permitted here as not to skew the panel judgement.
  - ➢ The second **static slide** should be used to visualise the subject of the talk or to support the presentation in any other suitable way. No slide transitions, animations, movies or 'movement' of any description are permitted.
  - ➢ No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files), props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- **Presentations are to be spoken word** (e.g. no raps or songs are permitted, though poems or rhymed presentations are allowed, if developed by the contestant).
- Presentations are considered to have commenced after a signal from the judging panel.

4. *What language can be used for the presentation?*
The preferred language of the contest is **English**. If the contestant is interested to present in Ukrainian or German, this can be permitted (simultaneous translation will then be organised).

5. *Who will judge the competition?*
The Contest will be judged by a panel of experienced scientists, including members of the Society and the UKRAINE Network, who will represent different areas of research, both natural sciences, and humanities & social sciences.

6. *How the finalists will be chosen?*
The Contest Organisation Committee will evaluate submitted applications and select top candidates, based on both their description of the research and their track-record, evidenced by academic achievements to date. Up to 3 PhD-level scientists from the UKRAINE Network may be contacted as reviewers to provide an expert advice on applications in their respective fields of expertise. Care will be taken to achieve a diverse representation of subjects, as well as gender balance.

7. *How the Contest will be judged?*
The contestants will be evaluated for:

i) **Content & Comprehension (50%)**:
- ➢ Did the contestant manage to convince you of novelty and potential impact of his/her research?
- ➢ Did the presentation provide sufficient background to the research question being addressed?
- ➢ Did the presentation clearly describe the key methods and results of the research, including conclusions and outcomes?
- ➢ Did the contestant communicate in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience? Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon and, when absolutely necessary, sufficiently explain terminology?
- ➢ Did the presentation have a clear and logical structure? Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did the presentation feel too rushed?

i) **Engagement & Communication (50%)**:

➢ Did the speaker make the audience want to know more? Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
➢ Was the presenter careful not to trivialise or over-generalise their research?
➢ Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
➢ Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
➢ Did the slides enhance the presentation – were they clear, legible, and concise?

Successful candidates should be able to demonstrate top scientific achievements as expected for their career stage and effectively communicate how the advancement of science and technology contributes to solving global challenges faced by humanity.

8. *What are the awards?*

The finalists (up to 6 persons) will be invited to Tübingen, Germany to participate in the Days of Ukraine in Baden-Württemberg and the open part of the Annual meeting the German-Ukrainian Academic Society (19-20 September 2019), and present their research live at the **Final**. The travel expenses (up to 200 EUR, in accordance with the rules for employees of Public Service/*Öffentliche Dienst*) will be reimbursed and the accommodation (up to 2 nights) will be arranged by the Society. The Prizes (1st place: EUR 300, 2nd place: EUR 200, 3rd place: EUR 100) are awarded by the German-Ukrainian Academic Society, with support of sponsors. Nomad Bioscience GmbH is a long-standing supporter of this contest.

9. *How to apply?*

Interested? Apply by **sending your CV to info (at) ukrainet.eu** and **filling the application form**, providing some basic information on your current affiliation, subject of study and a brief summary of your PhD research project and why your research is important, by following this link: https://www.surveymonkey.de/r/3F3LJLB.

10. *Data privacy*

By filling the application form and sending your CV you consent for your data to be processed for the purpose of this Contest, your application to be reviewed by expert referees and to be contacted by a member of the Contest Committee. After the end of the Contest the information you have submitted will be deleted. We will not share your data with the third parties without your explicit consent.