



PhD Thesis Presentation Contest

Application closing date is extended to Friday, 24. April 2026. Finalists are expected to be informed by the end of July 2026.

Apply by following these four steps:

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1. fill in the application form (available here: <http://ukrainet.eu/phd-contest/>) and
 2. enclose your CV (preferably as a single pdf document named "Your Surname")
 3. fill in and sign a separate Consent Form (available here: <http://ukrainet.eu/phd-contest/>)
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4. send your application to the following e-mail: phd-contest@ukrainet.eu
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The Final will be carried out on Thursday, the 8th of October 2026 in Wildau, Germany within the framework of the Days of Ukraine in Brandenburg (8. - 9. October 2026 in Wildau), accompanied by the Annual Meeting of the German-Ukrainian Academic Society (die Deutsch-Ukrainische Akademische Gesellschaft e.V., DUAG). The PhD Contest judging panel will consist of researchers involved in international cooperation with partners in Ukraine, appointed by the Board of the Society.

Organiser: [German-Ukrainian Academic Society/ The UKRAINE Network](http://ukrainet.eu) (ukrainet.eu)

Supporters: **Nomad Bioscience GmbH** and the **Embassy of Ukraine in Germany**

Contact: Head of the PhD Contest Organisation Committee: Nataliya Butych (for any enquiries e-mail to info@ukrainet.eu)

FAQs:

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2. ***Who can participate?***
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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 next generation of talented researchers remains rather modest, 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, environmental studies, 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 PhD 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. The finalists, in addition to existing networking opportunities and adding an extra credentials to their CVs, get a chance to win one of the **three prizes**:

- **1st place: EUR 300**
- **2nd place: EUR 200**
- **3rd place: EUR 100**

The travel (up to 200 EUR) and stay in Wildau (up to 2 nights) will be supported by the Society. In case a finalist lives outside of Europe and could not raise additional travel support at their university/ in their country of studies, an option of participating per live video will be offered.

This PhD Contest was organised for the first time in 2016 (<http://ukrainet.eu/phd-contest/>). Up to 6 finalists are pre-selected by the PhD 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 the Federal Republic of Germany. The main goals of The UKRAINE Network are:

- ✓ FOSTER academic cooperation with Ukraine
- ✓ IMPROVE knowledge about Ukraine abroad and vice versa
- ✓ INCREASE visibility of Ukrainian scientists and their achievements
- ✓ SUPPORT career development of members and early-career researchers in Ukraine
- ✓ SUPPORT reforms in Ukrainian science

2. *Who can participate?*

We invite applications from PhD/MD students carrying out their research in any subject, from one or more following groups:

- 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 other bi- or multi-lateral, including Ukraine) research project;
- PhD students, regardless of nationality, whose topic of research is focussing on Ukraine.

Please note: only those PhD students whose PhD defence/viva is planned after the PhD Contest Final date (**8. October 2026**) can be considered (i.e., candidates who have already defended, or submitted their thesis, 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](mailto:info@ukrainet.eu).

3. *What are the rules of the competition¹?*

- Contestants present their own research work, which is a part of their current PhD thesis.
- Contestants should be able to present some of their own results and research findings and not only discuss the overall background and goals of their project.
- The presentation should last no longer than **5 minutes**.
- The presentation should be understandable for educated non-specialist audience. The main points to be addressed are recommended to be structured along the so-called “CAR”-rule:
 - **Challenge:** What is the key challenge of your research project? What gap in knowledge your research aims to fill?
 - **Approach:** What (novel) methods are used/ being developed by you to address the challenge?
 - **Results:** What are the key findings/ new knowledge you have already established, and why it is important.

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

- **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 who else collaborates on this project. 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 prepared in a story-telling style** (e.g. no raps or songs are permitted).
- Presentations are considered to have commenced after a signal from the judging panel.

¹ Rules for this competition have been adapted from the 3-Minute Thesis Competition regulations:

<http://threeminutethesis.org/index.html?page=191546&pid=193447>



4. *What language can be used for the presentation?*

The preferred language of the PhD 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 PhD 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 and who have been involved in international cooperation with partners in Ukraine.

6. *How will the finalists be chosen?*

The PhD Contest Organisation Committee will organise a peer-review to evaluate submitted applications and, based on at least two evaluations by independent reviewers, select top candidates, based on both their description of the research and their track-record, evidenced by academic achievements to date. PhD-level researchers from among the DUAG/The UKRAINE Network members and a broader scientific community will be contacted as reviewers to provide an expert opinion on applications in their respective fields of expertise. Care will be taken to achieve a diverse representation of subjects, as well as reach a gender-balanced group of finalists.

7. *How will the Contest 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 their 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.

8. What are the awards?

The finalists (up to 6 persons) will be invited to Wildau, Germany to participate in the Days of Ukraine in Brandenburg (8. - 9. October 2026 in Wildau), and present their research live or, if permitted by the PhD Contest Organizing Committee, per video 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 filling in the application form** (available here: <http://ukrainet.eu/phd-contest/>) **and sending it together with your CV (preferably as a single pdf document named "Your Surname") to info (at) ukrainet.eu**

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 PhD Contest, your application to be reviewed by expert referees and to be contacted by a member of the PhD Contest Organizing Committee. After the end of the PhD Contest the information you have submitted will be deleted. We will not share your data with the third parties without your explicit consent. Our Data Privacy Policy can be found [here](#).