

Abstract Submission Guideline *for* 3MT Challenge

Abstract Submission for ICM 2026

The Research Committee, FMS, USJ invites abstract submissions for “**3MT Challenge**” of the **International Conference on Medical Sciences 2026 (ICM 2026)**. It is conducted as a competition where postgraduate research students narrate their theses with significant findings to a general audience just in three minutes.

All abstracts must adhere strictly to the prescribed **abstract preparation guidelines** and must **clearly identify the Sustainable Development Goal(s) (SDGs)** addressed by the study at the submission.

All abstracts must be **submitted ONLINE**. **Each presenting author may submit only one abstract for the “3MT Challenge”**. Further details regarding presentation will be made available upon notification of abstract acceptance.

Submission Timeline

Abstract Submission Deadline: 1st June 2026

Author Notification of Acceptance: 1st August 2026

Eligibility

- Applicants should be active MPhil/MD/PhD candidates having completed a substantial portion of their research and having sufficient findings to present.
- Postgraduates who have submitted their theses but have not yet been awarded the relevant degree are also eligible.
- Applicants need to submit an abstract in one of the following areas to be accepted for the competition
 - Medical Sciences
 - Health Policy
 - Medical Education

Abstract Submission Guidelines

1. The **presenting author** is required to **register for the ICM 2026** following acceptance of the abstract by the review committee.
2. The author/s should take the responsibility for the research work and the contents reported in the abstract. The Scientific committee reserves the right to make alterations and to edit text to improve presentation.
3. If the work has been previously presented or published, in whole or in part, this must be clearly declared at the time of submission. Such prior presentation or publication will not automatically disqualify the paper from consideration.
4. All **original research** studies must be supported by a scanned copy of a letter granting approval from a recognised Ethical Review Committee (ERC). For studies conducted without ERC approval, the presenting author must provide a clear justification explaining why ethical approval was not required. The ERC approval letter or the written justification (as applicable) must be uploaded via the online abstract submission portal at the time of abstract submission. Abstracts of studies not supported by valid ERC approval or an acceptable justification will not be considered for review will be rejected.
5. Abstracts submitted after the deadline will not be considered.
6. The abstract should be uploaded as a **Word document** to the abstract **submission portal** along with the author details and the relevant SDGs addressed.
7. There is **no abstract submission fee**.
8. Each presenting author may submit only one abstract for the "3MT Challenge".

Outcome of the submitted abstract

Following the review process, the submitted abstracts will be subjected to one of the following,

- Selected for “3MT Challenge”
- Offered the option for an oral presentation in a different category
- Offered the option for a poster presentation (accompanied by a 3-minute narration)
- Rejected

Abstract Format

1. Title of the Abstract:

- a. The title should summarise the abstract and convince the reviewer of the relevance and innovativeness of the work.
- b. Maximum character limit: **250 characters with spaces**
- c. Font: **Times New Roman, 12 pt, Sentence Case, Bold**
- d. alignment: **Left-aligned**
(The scientific committee reserves the right to modify the title where necessary)

2. Authors and Affiliations:

- a. Font : **Times New Roman, 9 pt, Italic, Justified**
- b. Format: **Initial(s) followed by surname** (e.g., M Perera, K Silva)
- c. Underline the presenting author
- d. Include author affiliations and the corresponding author's email address
- e. Do not include titles (e.g., Dr, Prof)
- f. **Email address** of the **corresponding author** should be included following the affiliations

e.g.

M Perera¹, K Silva¹

¹University of Sri Jayewardenepura

mary.perera@gmail.com

3. Body of Abstract:

Font: **Times New Roman, 12 pt**

Alignment: **Left-aligned** with no paragraph indents

Spacing: **1.5 Spacing**

Introduction/Background: the introduction should provide a concise overview of the existing literature on the problem addressed by the research, what remains unknown and how your research would fill the gaps in the knowledge.

Methods: following areas shall specifically be mentioned.

- a. Study design
- b. Study setting
- c. Number of subjects enrolled in the study & any inclusion/exclusion criteria when applicable
- d. A description of the intervention (when applicable)
- e. A list of the outcome variables & how they were measured
- f. Statistical methods used to analyse the data

Results: This should include a description of the subjects that were included and excluded from the study, frequencies of most important outcome variables, any comparisons of the outcome variables between various subgroups within the study (treated vs. untreated, young vs. old, male vs. female, and so forth). Numerical results should include standard deviations or 95% confidence limits and the level of statistical significance.

Conclusion: State concisely what can be concluded and its implications. The conclusions must be supported by the data presented in the abstract. Any unsubstantiated personal opinion should not be included. The generalizability of the results to populations other than that of studied and the weaknesses of the study should be addressed where applicable.

4. **Key words:** 2-5 key words
5. **Acknowledgement:** Funding agencies only.
6. **Not permitted.**
 - a. No references
 - b. No brand or company names
 - c. No tables/figures/graphs/diagrams
 - d. Non-standard abbreviations.
7. **Word limit**
 - a. The number of words is limited strictly to 300 excluding the title, authors, affiliations and acknowledgement.
 - b. Each word or number is counted as one word whether it is one character or 10 characters long. Units will count as part of the number with which they are attached.

Rules and Regulations for Presentation

- Only selected abstracts will be presented at the conference.
- Presentations are strictly limited to three minutes and competitors exceeding the time, will be disqualified.
- Just a single static Power point slide is permitted in the presentation (no slide transitions, animations or ‘movement’ of any description).
- Use only the given power point slide format for your presentation.
- Presentations are to be spoken in word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted within the presentation.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is the final decision.
- Please note that competitors will be judged on the presentation, ability to communicate research to an audience effectively, and the 3MT PowerPoint slide.