

IX competition “Do you want to know what I research?”

Conditions of the call for applications

1. Aim

The Unit for Scientific Culture and Innovation, ComCiència, and the Postgraduate and Doctoral School of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili announce the ninth edition of the competition “Vols saber què investigo” (“Do you want to know what I research?”), which is aimed at URV doctoral students to enable them to inform others in the form of a scientific monologue about their research project or the knowledge area in which they work.

The call aims to incentivize doctoral students to use new forms of dissemination to promote their research and to make the research carried out at the URV more accessible to the wider public.

“Vols saber què investigo” provides a setting in which young researchers can explain to a non-specialized public their research in a condensed and engaging manner, adapting their language to their audience and relying solely on communicative and personal skills without the support of presentation tools.

This call is inspired by [FameLab](#), an international competition that promotes the dissemination of science and the identification of new talent through the medium of scientific monologues. The winner will represent the University at the competition "Explain your thesis in 4 minutes", organised by the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation.

2. Requirements

To participate in the competition, candidates must:

- be doctoral students registered for at least the second year of a doctoral programme at the URV at the time of application, with their registration active and their fees paid. The monologues may be given in Catalan, Spanish or English.
- have the approval of their thesis supervisor at the time of their application to participate in the competition. This approval will not be required in writing until and if the student reaches the final.
- not have defended their thesis before presenting the application to the University.
- commit to attending on the day the competition is held. The winner of the URV competition must also commit to attending the interuniversity final (in the first/second week of June).

- commit to not revealing any confidential information from the research during their public presentation.

The University will not be responsible if any of the participants fail to comply with these requirements.

3. Competition phases

The competition consists of two phases. In the first, candidates must send written proposals using the attached form and accompanied by a video presentation lasting a maximum of one minute. Six of the proposals presented will be selected via an internal process to proceed to the local final. In the second phase, the chosen candidates must present their research in an event open to the general public (provided that this is not prevented by conditions resulting from the pandemic), which is also retransmitted online. A jury will evaluate the presentations and award the first and second prizes. A further prize will also be chosen by the public. The winner will also represent the URV in the interuniversity final of the competition "Explain your thesis in 4 minutes", organised by the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation, which will take place in July.

3.1. First phase. Candidate selection

1. Candidates must complete the online registration form which they will find at www.comciencia.urv.cat and send it by email to comciencia@urv.cat with the subject: *Registration "Vols saber què investigo"* together with a video lasting a maximum of one minute in which they must present their reasons for participating in the competition and state the subject matter of their monologue.
2. The registration period for the competition ends on **Tuesday 8th February 2022** at 23:59. Participants will receive an email confirming their registration.
3. The registration application includes personal and contact data and a summary in Catalan, Spanish or English (maximum 500 words) regarding the project or research area that the candidate wants to talk about during the competition. Candidates must ensure that the language they use in their summaries can be understood by people who are not experts in the subject.
4. In the one-minute video accompanying the application, candidates must introduce themselves, explain why they want to participate in the competition and state the central theme of their monologue. The video must be in .mp4 or .mov format and the file must not exceed 20Mb. If the file is larger than this, it must be sent via a download link.
5. If there are more candidates than places, the six candidates who will proceed to the final will be chosen by the representatives of the Postgraduate and Doctoral School, representatives of the URV's research community and representatives of the Science Communication Unit, ComCiència, as competition organisers.

6. Candidates must commit to participating in person in the final (provided that this is not prevented by conditions resulting from the pandemic), which is also retransmitted online. If they win, they must also commit to participating as representatives of the URV in the interuniversity final of the competition "Explain your thesis in 4 minutes", organised by the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation, which will take place in July.
7. The Committee will judge each candidate on the clarity of their presentation, their capacity to synthesize information whilst maintaining the scientific rigour of the subject and their ability to capture the attention of the public.
8. Before 26 March, candidates will be informed by email if they have been selected to participate in the final phase.

3.2. Second phase. Final phase

1. The selected individuals must prepare a monologue lasting a maximum of four minutes on the research area that they presented in their application.
2. The scientific monologues will be presented as part of the event *Ciència al Teatre* (Science at the Theatre) which will take place next April in Reus. The event will be aimed at the general public and also retransmitted online.
3. During their presentations, participants may use supporting materials such as instruments needed to make demonstrations, but they may not use projections or slide presentations. The support materials must be easy to set up and remove because there will be very limited time between each presentation.
4. Presentations may be given in Catalan, Spanish and English.
5. When preparing and presenting their monologues, candidates must bear in mind that the people watching will have no expertise in the candidate's chosen subject.
6. During the process of preparing their monologues, candidates will receive support from the Theatre Group of the URV, who will provide them with resources regarding staging and redaction and will give specific advice to each individual candidate.
7. The jury will comprise scientists and communicators who will evaluate the candidates and decide the result of the competition. They will give particular value to presentations that are dynamic, original and attractive for a non-expert public and to the use of appropriate communicative resources to reinforce the desired message. The public in attendance at the event will also vote for their favourite presentation.
8. The prizes will be awarded on the same day as the competition, after deliberation by the jury and public votes have been counted.

4. Prizes

Prizes will be awarded to the two best monologues (first and second prize), chosen by the jury, and to the monologue chosen by the public. The prize fund is €1000, which will be distributed in the following manner:

- If the monologue voted for by the public coincides with the jury's first or second chosen monologues, the jury's first monologue will receive €700 and the jury's second monologue will receive €300.
- If the monologue voted for by the public does not coincide with either the jury's first or second chosen monologue, the jury's first chosen monologue will receive €600, the jury's second chosen monologue will receive €200 and the publicly chosen monologue will receive €200.

In addition, the top three finalists will be able to register for the doctoral programme without having to pay tuition fees (rates excluded). If the winner is in a position where they do not have to pay tuition fees for the following academic year (e.g. because they have completed their doctorate or because they have received a separate grant, etc.), they will receive the amount corresponding to the tuition fees.

The first prize winner will represent the URV at the interuniversity final of the competition "Explain your thesis in 4 minutes", organised by the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation.

Furthermore, all participants will receive a free gift containing products from the Botiga URV (URV Shop).

The organisers encourage all competitors, in particular the winners, to participate in the 2022 international Famelab scientific monologues competition, for which, if they decide to do so, they will receive support and advice from the Science Communication Unit.

5. Intellectual and industrial property

The URV agrees to extensively publicise the competition, both before and after it is held. It will also retransmit the event online, record it and publish videos of the full version of each competitor's monologue, which it will publicise in any manner that it considers appropriate and on a not-for-profit basis. In all cases, authorship will be stated and no financial reward will be given, other than the prizes described in the previous point.

Each competitor will retain the intellectual property rights and exploitation rights of their presentation.

In the event of any conflict of interests with third parties regarding the research and data presented, the doctoral student will be responsible for having made these data public on accepting the conditions of the competition.

6. Privacy policy and data protection

The Universitat Rovira i Virgili is the Data Controller. The purpose for processing the data is to organise the competition "Explain your thesis in 4 minutes" and the legal justification is the consent of the interested parties. The data receivers are the Universitat Rovira i Virgili and the data processor. Personal data will not be ceded to third parties unless there is a legal obligation to do so. Interested parties have the right to access, rectify and remove their data, to request the portability of their data, and to request that the processing of their data is limited.

7. Acceptance of the conditions and the applicable regulations

By participating in this competition candidates fully accept these conditions. Any doubts regarding the interpretation or any incident that may arise during the period of the competition must be resolved by the organisers and their decisions may not be appealed. In case of doubt regarding the interpretation of these conditions, the Catalan version of these conditions will take prevalence over the translations into other languages.

Notwithstanding the responsibilities that may fall to the candidate, any misrepresentation of the facts or falsification of documentation during the application process will lead to the prize being revoked.

Any questions or doubts regarding the competition or the competition conditions may be resolved by sending an email to comciencia@urv.cat or by calling 977 297 011/977 558 006.