

13th 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 Doctoral School of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili announce the thirteenth edition of the competition “**Do you want to know what I research?**”, which is designed so that **URV doctoral students** can tell others about their research project or the knowledge area in which they work through a scientific monologue. The activity has the support of the Tarragona Provincial Council and the URV’s Language Policy Committee.

The call aims to encourage 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.

“**Do you want to know what I research?**” 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.

The winner will represent the University at the competition “**Explain your thesis in 4 minutes**”, organized by the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation on June 11 in Vic.

2. Requirements

2.1. To participate in the competition, candidates must be doctoral students **registered at least on 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**. On the initiative of the URV’s Language Policy Committee, this edition includes a special prize for the best monologue in Catalan so as to encourage the use of Catalan in scientific communication.

2.2. Students must **have the approval of their thesis supervisor** at the time of their application to participate in the competition. This approval will only be required if the student reaches the final.

2.3. **Students must not have defended their thesis** before presenting the application to the University.

2.4. Students must **commit to attending on the day the competition is held (22 April 2026, Teatre Bartrina in Reus)**. The winner of the URV competition must also **commit to attending the interuniversity final “Presenta la teva tesi en 4 minutes”**, which will be held on June 11 in Vic.

2.5. Students must 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 a ceremony **open to the general public. All presentations will be recorded and subsequently published**. A jury will judge the presentations and award prizes to the finalists, and there will also be a prize for the finalist chosen by the audience and for the best monologue in Catalan. 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 on June 11 in Vic.

3.1. First phase: Candidate selection

- a) 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 “Do you want to know what I research?”** 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.
- b) The registration period for the competition ends on **Monday 2 February 2026** at 23:59. Participants will receive an email confirming their registration.
- c) The registration application includes **personal and contact details 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.
- d) 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.

- e) If there are more candidates than places, the six candidates who will proceed to the final will be chosen by the **representatives of the Doctoral School, representatives of the URV's research community and representatives of the Science Communication and Disclosure Unit, ComCiència**, as competition organisers.
- f) Candidates **must commit to participating in person in the final** which will be held on 22 April at Teatre Bartrina (Reus). 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 on June 11 in Vic.
- g) The Committee will judge each candidate on the **clarity of their presentation, their ability to summarise information and their capacity to engage the audience, without detriment to the scientific rigour of the topic**.
- h) Before **13 February**, candidates will be informed by email if they have been selected to participate in the final phase.

3.2. Second phase: Final phase

- a) The individuals selected must prepare a **monologue lasting a maximum of four minutes** on the research area that they presented in their application.
- b) The scientific monologues will be presented as part of the event ***Vols saber què investigo?*** which will be held in Reus on 22 April. The event is designed for the general and teenage public.
- c) 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.
- d) Presentations may be given in **Catalan, Spanish and English**.
- e) When preparing and presenting their monologues, candidates must bear in mind that **the audience will have no expertise** in the candidate's chosen subject.
- f) During the process of preparing their monologues, candidates will receive **support from the URV's Department of Communication Studies**, who will provide them with resources regarding staging and drafting and will give specific advice to each individual candidate.

- g) The jury will be made up of science and communication staff 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 audience and to the use of appropriate communicative resources to reinforce the desired message. **The audience attending the event will also vote** for their favourite presentation.
- h) **The prizes will be awarded on the same day as the competition**, after the jury has deliberated and the audience's votes have been counted.

4. Prizes

All six finalists will be awarded a prize. The jury will also award first and second prize to the best two monologues, and the special prize for the best monologue in Catalan, which may or may not be the same as one of the first two prizes. There will also be another prize for the audience's favourite. **The prize fund is €3,100**, which will be distributed in the following manner:

- a) **First prize:** 850 €
- b) **Second prize:** 650 €
- c) **Third, fourth, fifth and sixth prizes:** 150 €
- d) **Prize for the best monologue in Catalan:** 600 € (this amount will be added to that of any other prize and will be awarded to the best-rated monologue in Catalan in the competition)
- e) **The audience's prize:** 400 € (this amount will be added to the previous prizes)

The winner of the first prize 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.

5. Intellectual and industrial property

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

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 after 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 processors. The transfer of data to third parties is not contemplated, unless obliged by law. 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 977 558 006/977 558 258.