

CALL FOR APPLICATION

PITCH YOUR THESIS

*Pitch your doctoral thesis - 3 minutes to convince
& win a cash prize*

APPLY BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15th, 2025

**Competition to be held on Thursday, October 30th, 2025
Emory University**

Jointly organized by Villa Albertine and France Science in Atlanta, the “Pitch Your Thesis” competition invites PhD students **to present their research topic in just 180 seconds**.

Inspired by the Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) format, this challenge encourages participants to deliver a clear, concise, and compelling presentation that can be understood by a non-specialist audience. The competition helps students sharpen their presentation, research communication, and public speaking skills, while strengthening their ability to explain complex ideas in accessible terms.

Engaging and stimulating, “Pitch Your Doctoral Thesis, 3 Minutes to Convince” is a **specific competition to highlight research projects with a French connection** conducted in the southeastern United States to:

- > spotlight the work of French and Francophone doctoral researchers in the U.S.,
- > celebrate the diversity and depth of academic research,
- > provide valuable professional experience in a friendly and inspiring setting

HOW DOES THAT WORK?


- Pitch your doctoral thesis in 3 minutes sharp, in English.
- No slide allowed.
- Deliberation by an interdisciplinary jury


WHO CAN APPLY?


The competition is open to doctoral students who already have a thesis subject. You must make sure your situation corresponds to one of the two categories open for applications:


1. **Category 1: PhD students in French and Francophone studies** from Emory University, Duke University, and the University of Georgia, Athens.
2. **Category 2: PhD students** (research fields: STEM) currently residing and studying at a university in Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, or Tennessee. Are eligible French PhD students or PhD students under the supervision of a French or Francophone Principal Investigator.

WHY SHOULD YOU PARTICIPATE?

 **Polish your public speaking skills:** develop and/or strengthen key oral communication skills in public speaking

 **Sharpen your thinking and scientific communication:** learn to present your research clearly and concisely to a non-specialist audience

 **Connect with fellow researchers from the Southeast:** meet other researchers from the southeastern United States and create synergies/build relationships

 **Boost your resume** with a unique professional experience

 **Train for your thesis defense**—and your future career!




All **selected participants will attend a free online training webinar** on how to communicate science clearly and persuasively, which is an essential skill for your future career, whether in academia or elsewhere!

HOW TO APPLY?

1. Fill out the [Form following this link](#).
2. Submit:
 - A **short research summary** (100–150 words)
 - Your **resume (CV)**
3. Deadline: **September 15, 2025**

 **Note:** Space is limited.

WHAT IS THERE TO WIN?





-  **\$250** for the best pitch in each category
-  **Visibility, networking, and valuable feedback**
-  A one-of-a-kind academic experience in a dynamic setting


KEY DATES

September 15, 2025	Deadline for sending your application Fill out the google form! BE AWARE – there is a limited number of participants! First registered, first served!
Before September 30, 2025	Selected candidates announced
In October	Online training webinar on science communication Get some tips to prepare your pitch, fight the stress, and learn about science popularization!
October 30, 2025	Final competition: in-person event at Emory University in Atlanta Bring your supporters and enjoy a fun event!

HOW WILL YOU BE JUDGED IN THE COMPETITION?

An interdisciplinary jury of academics and professionals will assess your pitch based on:

-  **Clarity** and structure
-  **Popularization** of complex ideas
-  **Public speaking skills** and engagement
-  Respect for the **3-minute** time limit

 *Audience feedback will also be encouraged, expect a lively, interactive evening!*

QUESTIONS?

Feel free to send your questions to Atlanta@villa-albertine.org