My thesis **in 1000 Words**

The International
Contest

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My thesis
in *1000*
Words

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by

The Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
(ICESCO)

&

Sultan Qaboos University Remote Sensing and GIS Center
(SQU- RSGIS)

&

The Federation of the Universities of The Islamic World
(FUIW)

In Collaboration with

ICESCO Chair of Machine learning in Remote Sensing

&

IEEE-Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society
(IEEE-GRSS)

&

Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science
(OmanNatCom)

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WITH A SPECIAL PRIZE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN REMOTE SENSING AND GIS.

Introduction

The Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), Sultan Qaboos University-Remote Sensing and GIS Center (SQU-RSGIS) and the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW), in collaboration with the ICESCO Chair of Machine learning in Remote Sensing, the IEEE and the Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (IEEE-GRSS), and the Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science (OmanNatCom) organize the second edition of the international contest of « My thesis in 1000 Words », for the benefit of the final-year PhD students in the Islamic world, to encourage them to hone their communication skills and sharpen their ability to present their doctoral thesis in less than a 1000 words.

About the Award

1. PARTICIPATION TERMS

Participation is open to final-year PhD students in Islamic world universities who have finished drafting their thesis. Students who have already defended their doctoral thesis are not eligible to participate. The second edition of this contest gathers the theses covering two main themes:

Theme 1: All disciplines, except the one specified in theme 2.

Theme 2: The topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Remote Sensing and GIS.

2. DETAILS

The competition involves recording a video clip in which the candidate explains his/her doctoral thesis in no more than a thousand words. A jury of specialized experts and academics will evaluate the videos and select ten (10) nominees for the final phase. Five of them for theme 1 and five for theme 2.

Note

Videos must adhere to the following technical specifications:

- The video should be titled with the candidate's full name and university.
- The resolution must be a minimum of 1080p.
- The video format must be in MP4.
- The duration of the video presentation must be between 3 and a maximum of 5 minutes.
- The video must be filmed in landscape mode, not portrait, to ensure it can be viewed correctly on different devices.
- The file size must not exceed 500 MB.
- It is crucial to note that during the recording, the presentation should take place in a neutral setting (classroom, library, or the like), avoiding any backlight behind the candidate, ensuring a quiet and noise-free environment, and maintaining an unobstructed view of the face and distinct voice.
- Any application containing two videos will be deemed invalid.

The nominees will be invited to **the Sultan Qaboos University in Sultanate of Oman** to physically deliver their presentations during a special ceremony, in the presence of researchers/professors, university presidents, deans, and directors of university institutions.

For each theme, the jury selects the first and second-place winners, while the attendees vote for the audience award winners.

IMPORTANT DATES

The second edition of the award activities will span over until the end of year 2024, according to the following schedule:

Launch of the competition and calls for applications on the ICESCO, FUIW, SQU and IEEE-GRSS's websites and social media pages, mentioned in the last page.

Candidates must fill out the application form for the award and send their videos before the **15th September 2024.**

The jury's evaluation of the applications and selection of the candidates from **15th September to 30th October 2024.**

Announcement of the shortlisted candidates during the end of October / the beginning of **November 2024.**

Final ceremony and announcement of the finale winners on the **17th of December 2024.**

JUDGING CRITERIA

1. Comprehensiveness and content

The presentation must be delivered in appropriate language, focused, and adapted to a non-expert audience.

The jury will evaluate the presentations according to the following criteria:

- Did the presentation thoroughly explain the research background and the significance of the research questions ? Did it explain the terminology used and avoid the use of specialized terms ?
- Did it explicitly highlight the research conclusions, executive summaries, and findings ?
- Is it organized in a clear structure and a logical sequence ?
- Did it explain the research topic, significance, and findings in a way adapted to a non-expert audience ?
- Did the candidate allocate sufficient time to discuss each element of their presentation ? Did they over-discuss some aspects at the expense of others ?

2. Interaction and communication

Keys to an effective presentation are not restricted to content but also include communication and body language as they considerably impact the audience's understanding of and engagement with the research.

Emphasis is placed on the following questions:

- Did the presentation spark the audience's interest in finding out more about the research topic ?
- Did the candidate demonstrate in-depth knowledge of their research topic ?
- Does the candidate have an impressive stage presence ? Could they keep the audience engaged ? Did they maintain a steady delivery pace that reflects their confidence in themselves and their work ?
- Did the (Word) text support the video ? Was it clear and concise ?

The jury will have an evaluation sheet with the following 5 criteria:

CRITERIA/SCORE (Please score each of the 5 criteria you feel the best by using an [X])	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
1. How did the candidate respect the time allocated for their presentation ?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
2. How did the candidate contextualize the research topic and provide explanations ?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
3. Was the candidate able to answer the research questions that were raised ?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
4. Evaluation of the clarity of the presentation for a non-specialist audience ?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
5. How well does the candidate defend and promote the topic of their thesis ?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

SUB-SCORE
(∑ of scores under each column)

TOTAL SCORE (∑ of scores of all columns)	Low (5)				High (25)

To participate

in My thesis in *1000 Words*

Candidates must:

- Fill out the form and provide all required personal information.
- Submit a short video (file size should not exceed 500 MB) in which they creatively present their doctoral thesis in less than 1000 words, and attach the presentation script in Word format, the video and the Word document should be titled with the candidate's name and university.
- Ensure their entries are in Arabic, English or French;
- Avoid using any supporting customs, musical instruments or laboratory equipment.
- To submit applications, please visit the ICESCO, SQU and IEEE-GRSS's websites:

  www.icesco.org or **www.squ.edu.om** or **www.ieee.org**

For further information, please send an email to:
majda.souaf@icesco.org or **safaa.zebakh@icesco.org** or **rsgis@squ.edu.om**

THE WINNERS
OF THE LAST EDITION

Khalsa Al Bahri
Sultan Qaboos University

Nisrine Nouj
Ibn Zohr University

Chaymae Fouikhri
Hassan II University

**Federation of the Universities
of the Islamic World (FUIW)**

**Islamic World Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization
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