The Fall Project Pitch Challenge offers undergraduate students the chance to present a dynamic, 3-minute Pitch presentation of their research project or creative activity.

**Goal**
This competition allows undergraduates to practice articulating the importance of their research to others in a clear, engaging way while competing for cash prizes.

**Eligibility & Requirements**
- Currently enrolled as a UCI undergraduate
- Received UROP funding or recognition in Fall 2022 or Spring or Summer 2023
- Must be an individual presentation with only one entry per student
- Select a category:
  - Insights: A deep understanding or new way to think about or interact with a person, place, or thing
  - Innovations: A new idea, method, or product
- Able to submit a video of a three-minute Pitch presentation by the application deadline
- Available on Friday, November 17, from 2:00 to 4:00 to give a live, in-person, three-minute Pitch presentation and attend the awards ceremony

**Award**
The top three students in each category will earn an award (1st place - $100, 2nd place - $50, 3rd place - $25).

**Timeline**
- **Application Deadline:** 10/16/23 by 11:59 pm
- **Finalists Notified:** 11/3/2023
- **Workshop Date:** 11/13/2023
- **Final Round and Awards Ceremony:** 11/17/2023 (2:00–4:00 pm), Yosemite Ballroom, Division of Continuing Education Building: Ten students per category

**Summary of the Process**
- **Application:** Students submit an entry form, which includes the following:
  - Select a category (Insights or Innovations).
  - Research statement or abstract, which explains the significance of the research project or creative activity and why the public should care about the work.
  - Video recording for judging.
  - Profile photo, which can be a headshot or image representing the project or activity being presented.
- **Video Judging:** Judges rate student videos and select the top ten students in each category (Insights & Innovations) to compete in the Final Round.
- **Judges’ Feedback:** Judges will send constructive feedback to all entrants regarding their presentations.
- **Finalists Notified:** The students selected for the Final Round will be notified and provided further instructions about their next steps, including how to upload their final presentation slideshow.
- **Workshop:** Finalists should attend the Pitch Presentation Workshop to hone their presentations before the Final Round.
- **Final Round:** Selected students will give a LIVE, in-person Pitch presentation using PowerPoint slides in front of judges and an audience. The judges will determine each category’s top three award recipients.
- **Awards Ceremony:** Awards will be presented (1st place - $100, 2nd place - $50, 3rd place - $25).
**Group Projects**
- Group presentations are not permitted.
- Any student working as part of a group project may enter as an individual presenter.
- Each individual presentation must be unique.

**Presentation Format**
- Microsoft PowerPoint must be used for all slide presentations (no Prezi or other presentation formats).
- All presentations must be THREE minutes in length; presentations shorter than 2:30 or longer than 3:30 will be disqualified.
- Presentations are spoken words (e.g., no poems, raps, or songs), except for possible short examples of an original artistic work. These examples cannot take up more than one of the three minutes.
- Embedding of audio or video clips is not permitted.
- All work on the slides must be original to and generated by the student.
- The Title Slide must include the student’s name and the title of the presentation.
- Students self-record a video of them presenting their PowerPoint presentation, upload it to YouTube, and include the link in their initial application for judging.
- Final Round presentations will be delivered in person. Presentations may be modified before the Final Round.
- We will offer a workshop on Monday, November 13 (details to come) to help you finalize your presentation. You may also make an appointment to discuss your presentation with a UROP Advisor.

**Judging Criteria**
Presentations will be judged on five different areas: articulation of research thesis statement, scholarly comprehension, organization and synergy, quality of delivery, and visual presentation (See the Scorecard below for more details). The same criteria will be used for both the initial video and the in-person Final Round.

**Photography & Videography**
By entering the competition, the presenter agrees to allow UCI’s UROP to use the resulting photographs and/or video from the Project Pitch Challenge—which may include the presenter’s image or presentation—for publicity surrounding the competition and/or in other contexts, such as promotional materials, website, etc.

**Preparing your Presentation**
Your presentation should clearly communicate your project’s goals, results, conclusions, and implications. They typically include some type of visual aid, such as PowerPoint slides.

- View [this video](#) for guidance on how to prepare your presentation.
- Review [Presenting Effectively](#) for public speaking tips.
- Review the [Video Upload Instructions](#) for instructions on uploading your video presentation.

**PowerPoint Tips**
**Design slides to introduce important information.** Consider doing a presentation without slides. Then consider which points you cannot make without them. Create only those that are necessary to improve your communication with the judges and your audience.

**Use minimal text.** Use bullet points, not complete sentences. The text on your slide provides an outline of what you are saying. A common standard is the 6/7 rule: no more than six bulleted items per slide and no more than seven words per item.

**Use a large font.** As a general rule, avoid text smaller than 24-point type.

**Use a clean typeface.** Sans serif typefaces, such as Arial or Calibri, are generally easier to read on a screen than serif typefaces, such as Times New Roman.

**Use contrasting colors.** Use dark text on a light background or light text on a dark background. Avoid red/green combinations, as this is the most common form of color blindness.
Use special effects sparingly. Using animations, cool transition effects, sounds and other special effects is an effective way to make sure the audience notices your slides, but use them only when necessary to make a point.

Creating and Uploading your Presentation Video
You must create your video and upload it to your personal YouTube Channel. You will post a link to your video as part of the Project Pitch Challenge application.

- You may create your video in any format you choose (e.g., Zoom recording, Video recording, etc.)
- You must ensure that your video settings are “Public” and not limited to UCI audiences.
- See the Video Upload Instructions for more instructions.

For More Information
Please contact the UROP Office if you have any questions: Email: urop@uci.edu; Phone: (949) 824-4189, Location: Student Excellence Center, 559 Science Library.
## Project Pitch Challenge: Scorecard

**Presenter’s Name:** __________________________________________  
**Judge’s Name:** __________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>POOR</th>
<th>BELOW AVERAGE</th>
<th>AVERAGE</th>
<th>ABOVE AVERAGE</th>
<th>EXCELLENT</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation of Research Thesis Statement:</strong> Was the purpose, problem, or focus of the research clear and easily understood? Did the presenter provide strong and direct context, reasoning, and evidence related to their chosen topic?</td>
<td>1–2</td>
<td>3–4</td>
<td>5–6</td>
<td>7–8</td>
<td>9–10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scholarly Comprehension:</strong> Did the presenter demonstrate a strong understanding of the research topic and field in their presentation?</td>
<td>1–2</td>
<td>3–4</td>
<td>5–6</td>
<td>7–8</td>
<td>9–10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization and Synergy:</strong> Did the speaker and visual aids support each other in a balanced presentation that was impactful, logical, and cohesive? Was the language appropriate for a general audience, avoiding unnecessary/unexplained technical jargon?</td>
<td>1–2</td>
<td>3–4</td>
<td>5–6</td>
<td>7–8</td>
<td>9–10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quality of Delivery:</strong> Was the presentation compelling, concise, and of excellent quality? Did the presenter have excellent eye contact, appropriate volume, and effective body language?</td>
<td>1–2</td>
<td>3–4</td>
<td>5–6</td>
<td>7–8</td>
<td>9–10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visual Presentation:</strong> Were the charts, graphics, and visuals impactful, helpful, and self-explanatory? Were the visual aids excellently balanced between necessary text, white space, guiding charts, and pictures?</td>
<td>1–2</td>
<td>3–4</td>
<td>5–6</td>
<td>7–8</td>
<td>9–10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Score:**

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**Notes:** Ensure that all categories are assessed fairly and accurately. Consistency in scoring is crucial.

**Instructions:** Use a scale of 1–10 to evaluate each category.

**Assessment:** Each category should be evaluated based on the criteria provided.