

UCSD Grad SLAM 2026

Preliminary Round Participant Guidelines



Welcome to the [2026 Grad SLAM competition!](#)

Follow these guidelines when making and submitting your 3-minute video in the **Preliminary Round**.

Eligibility criteria and important things to note:

- The deadline to submit your video is **Tuesday, January 6th at 10:00 a.m. (Pacific Time)**.
- All graduate students currently enrolled (or on filing fee status) in a UCSD Masters' or Doctoral program (including JDP, School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy) are eligible to participate.
- Graduate students who placed in a previous UCSD Grad SLAM Final are not eligible to participate.
- In cases of collaborative research, the participant's contributions must be clearly specified.
- Participants are judged on the content of their talk, not the quality of their video. Scores submitted by the judging panel are confidential and will not be shared with preliminary round participants.
- Eligible students may submit only one video for consideration. If more than one submission is received, the last entry will be forwarded for judging. Videos must be newly recorded (in the last 30 days).
- Talks should feature research completed, in progress, or planned to be conducted during the student's graduate enrollment at UCSD. Talk must be newly generated and not used or submitted previously.
- Participants are responsible for getting approval from their supervisor and/or PI to share the information and details presented in their video submission.
- Eligible participants who follow all guidelines and submit a video will receive a \$25 VISA gift card

When making/creating/recording your video, keep in mind the following:

- Timing will commence from the moment the participant engages with the audience.
 - If starting with a gesture or other engagement prior to speaking - that's when the clock begins.
 - If there is no other engagement, the clock starts when the participant begins speaking.
- Talk should be as close as possible to 3 minutes; timing will be considered when selecting finalists.
- You may practice, but your submitted video must be a single, continuous, unedited take.
- Participant must be viewable on screen for the entire duration of their video.
- You may use any program/app to record your talk, including Zoom which is available for free at UCSD
- One PowerPoint slide is allowed but **use of a slide is optional and is not required**.
- If you choose to use a PowerPoint slide:
 - **Presenters are limited to ONE slide in addition to their [title slide](#).**
 - **Graduate students must create the PowerPoint slide themselves;** the slide can include visual elements created by someone else, as long as the slide credits the original creator.
 - The slide **must be static** - no media, transitions or animations are allowed.
 - The slide must be created using PowerPoint; Prezi or other presentation formats are not allowed.
 - Props are allowed, but will need to be cleared in advance of the final round.

Please see [FAQ sheet](#) for more details.

To submit your final video, fill out the UCSD Grad SLAM 2026 submission form.

The video should be titled with the following format: **LastName FirstName 2026GradSlam.mp4**

For additional support, check out these [preparation resources](#) on the Grad SLAM event page.

If you have questions, please contact gradlife@ucsd.edu. We look forward to seeing your talks!

grad.ucsd.edu/student-life/events/gradslam