

Grad Slam Information Session

Facilitator:
Kayleigh Anderson-Natale, PhD
UCI Graduate Division



What is Grad Slam?

- Grad Slam is a UC-Wide annual public speaking competition
- It challenges graduate students to communicate their research to a general audience in 3 minutes or less
- (1) Semi-Finals (2) UCI Campus Finals and (3) UC SYSTEM Finals
- Each UC campus selects 1 finalist to compete in the UC-systemwide Grad Slam Competition in May 2025
- Finalists from all 10 UC campuses compete for the title along with a cash award.



Why Participate in Grad Slam?

- All Student Participants:
 - Expand your CV and Resume (by simply participating!)
 - A forum to practice public speaking skills and presenting your research to a general audience
- UCI Campus Finalists:
 - Receive awards ranging from \$500 to \$6,500
 - Participate in one-on-one coaching session to improve your communication skills
 - Networking opportunities
 - Become the next UC Grad Slam Champion!

First Prize:
\$6500

Second Prize:
\$3500

Third Prize:
\$2500

Who Should Apply?

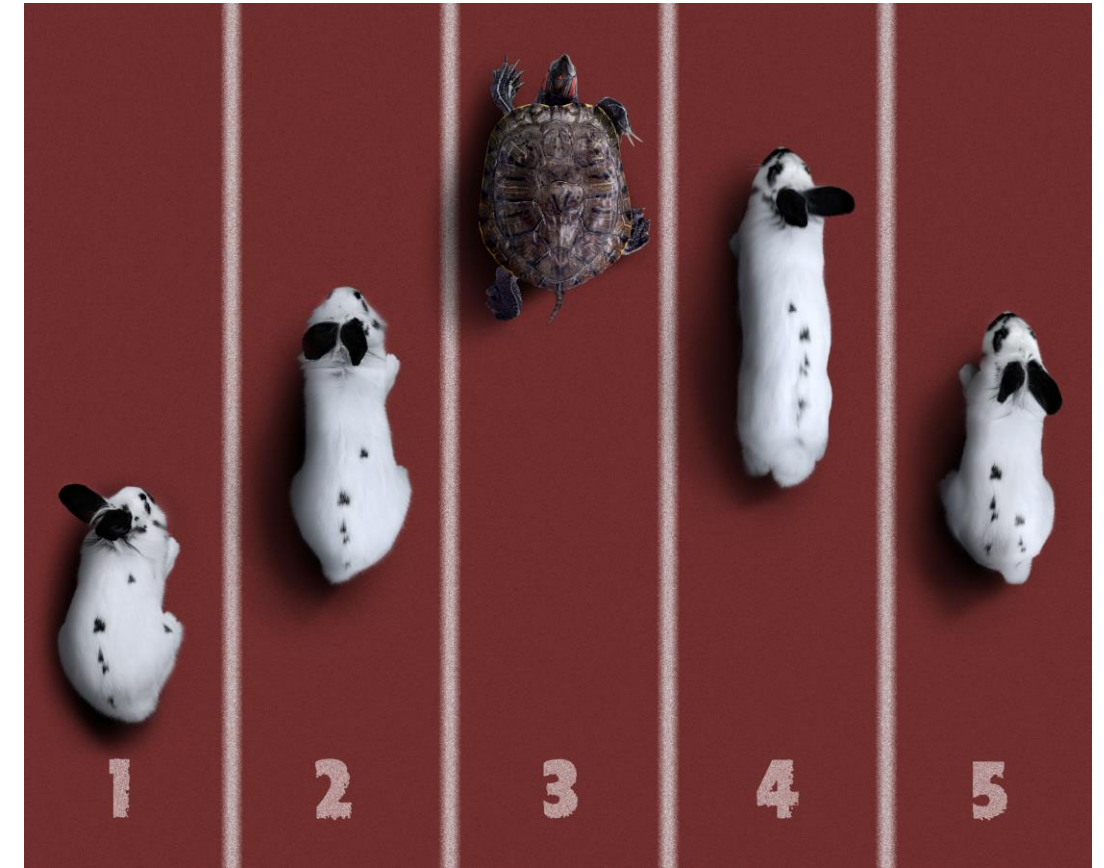


- All Graduate Students
- All disciplines
- All fields of research
- Previous competitors may still compete as long as they did NOT win the systemwide title

To be eligible, it is required that you are enrolled in both Winter Quarter 2025 and Spring Quarter 2025. Grad slam semi-finals, campus finals and systemwide finals will all be taking place in person. All competitors must be available to attend these events in person.

Application Process

- To apply, students must submit an abstract, and answer the following question:
 - Please describe the significance of your project or work for a non-academic audience
 - What is your experience with public speaking/public engagement/public science?
 - How would participating in Grad Slam impact your professional development and align with your career goals?
- No video submission



Presentation Rules

Visuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slides are allowed, but optional.• PowerPoint slides are only allowable format (no Prezi or other formats allowed).• Students must create own PPT slides.• Slides can include visual elements (charts, photos, clip art, etc.) created by someone other than the student, as long as the slide credits the original creator.• NEW: 1 single, static slide<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No animations• No video• No sound
Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Timing will begin at the moment the student engages with the audience• Points will be deducted from the final score, beginning with one point at 3:03, and one point being taken off for every two seconds the speaker continues after that.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For collaborative research, the presenter's contribution to the project must be salient and clearly specified.

[UCI Grad Slam Scorecard](#) (will be shared via email)

Grad Slam Judging

- Competitors are judged across the following criteria:
 - Clarity
 - Organization
 - Delivery
 - Appropriateness
 - Intellectual Significance
 - Engagement
- NO points awarded for visuals/PowerPoint slides

Contestant's Name:		UC Grad Slam Scorecard					Judge's Name:	
	<u>Excellent</u>		<u>Good</u>		<u>Poor</u>	<u>SCORE:</u>		
	5	4	3	2	1			
<i>Clarity:</i> Did the speaker provide adequate background knowledge to make the talk and the importance of the project understandable?						/5		
<i>Organization:</i> Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?						/5		
<i>Delivery:</i> E.g., pace, enthusiasm, confidence, body language, and vocal range.						/5		
<i>Appropriateness:</i> Was the topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to an intelligent, but non-specialist audience? (For example, did the speaker avoid or explain discipline-specific jargon?)						/5		
<i>Intellectual Significance:</i> Did the speaker explain why her/his project matters (for example, its significance to the academic discipline)?						/5		
<i>Engagement:</i> To what extent did the talk speak to your intellectual curiosity? Did it make you want to learn more about the topic?						/5		

Competition Structure



- Applications to Grad Slam
 - 50 competitors chosen to compete in UCI Grad Slam Semi-Finals
- UCI Grad Slam Semi-Finals
 - 10 competitors will advance to the UCI Grad Slam Campus Finals
- UCI Grad Slam Campus Finals
 - One competitor will advance to UC-wide competition
- UC Systemwide Competition
 - One student from each of the UC campuses will compete for the systemwide Grad Slam title and a cash prize

UCI Semi-Finals

- Applications are open until January 17, 2025 at 12 PM
 - Applicants will be notified by January 23, 2025 and must accept by January 27, 2025 (be prepared to submit day-of availability with your acceptance)
- Semi-Finals will take place IN-PERSON at the UCI Student Center, 2/7/25
- To prepare, participants should plan on attending one or both prep sessions with Activate to Captivate CEO, Bri McWhorter
 - January 29 (virtual) & January 30 (in person), 2025
 - More information will be emailed to those who have submitted applications



UCI Semi-Finals Competitor Expectations

- Competitors must submit their slides by 8 AM on February 5, 2025
- Competitors must check in no more than 20 minutes and no less than 10 minutes before the start of their heat
- Order of competitors within heats revealed at check in
- Competitors must stay for entire heat of their competition (unless cleared with Grad Slam coordinator by February 5)
 - Competitors do NOT need to attend heats in which they are not competing
- Competitors must remain seated in their competition order seat during ALL Grad Slam pitches
 - Do NOT get up for refreshments (or anything else), etc. during a competition pitch
- Competitors should refrain from chatting with the judges during the event

UCI Semi-Final Heats

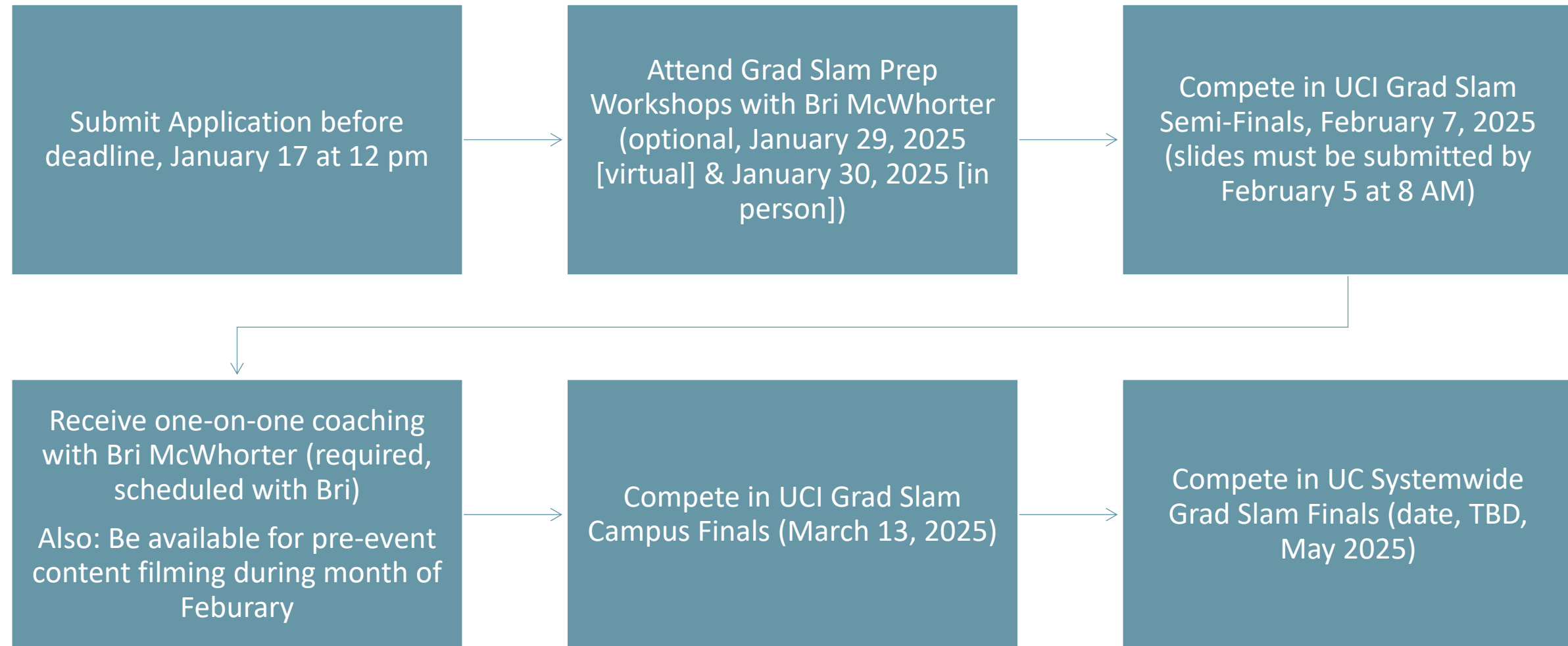
- Heat 1: 9am – 10:30am (competitor check in between 8:40-8:50 AM)
 - 10:30-11 AM break
- Heat 2: 11am – 12:30pm (competitor check in between 10:40-10:50 AM)
 - 12:30-1 PM break
- Heat 3: 1-2:30pm (competitor check in between 12:40-12:50 PM)
 - 2:30-3 PM break
- Heat 4: 3 – 4:30pm (competitor check in between 2:40-2:50 PM)
 - 4:30-5 PM break
- Heat 5: 5 – 6:30pm (competitor check in between 4:40-4:50 PM)

UCI Campus Finals

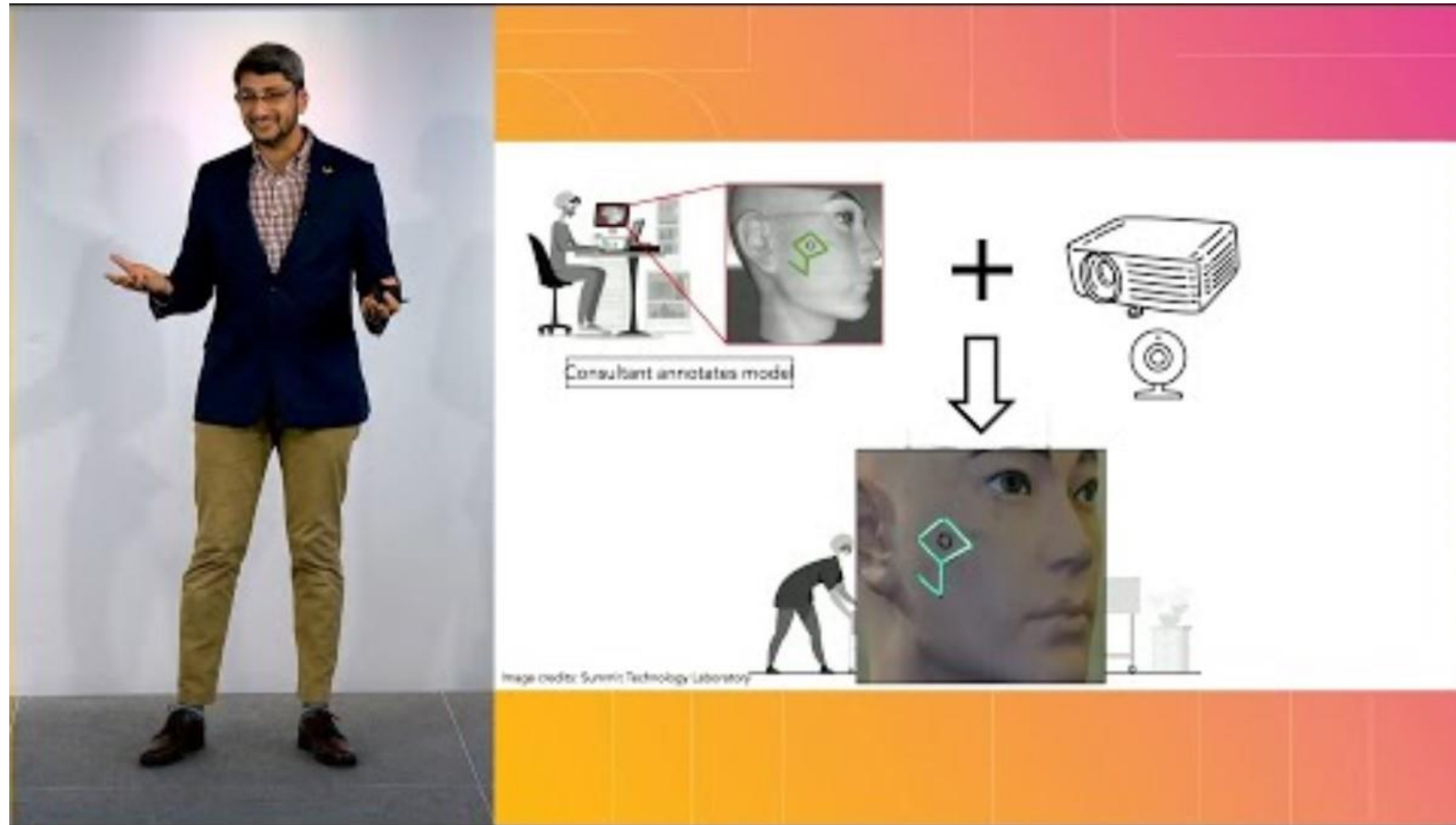
- After semi finals
 - Finalists should stay after the heat to be photographed
 - Finalists should make themselves available for pre-event filming during February
 - One-on-one coaching with Activate to Captivate CEO Bri McWhorter
- Campus Finals March 13, 2025
 - Campus finalist to advance to UC systemwide competition in May 2025



Grad Slam Participant Responsibilities



2023 UCI Grad Slam Finalist, Muhammad Twaha Ibrahim



View other past UCI finalists by clicking (2020-2022) [here!](#)

View last year's finals competition by clicking [here](#) (2024 Campus finalist at 37:37)

- [2023 UC Irvine Grad Slam Campus Finals](#)
- [2022 UC Grad Slam Systemwide Finals](#)
- [2022 UC Irvine Grad Slam Campus Finals](#)
- [2021 UC Grad Slam Systemwide Finals](#)
- [2020 UC Irvine Grad Slam Campus Finals](#)
- [2019 UC Grad Slam Systemwide Finals](#)
- [2018 UC Irvine Grad Slam Campus Finals](#)



Register for Grad
Slam Pitch
Workshop with Bri
McWhorter (virtual)
11 AM – 12 PM
January 29, 2025



Register for Grad
Slam Pitch
Workshop with Bri
McWhorter (in
person, GPSRC)
3-4 PM
January 30, 2025

Questions?

Contact Kayleigh Anderson-
Natale, kayleiga@uci.edu with
additional questions!



Submit an
application today!!