

Lena Söderström 2020-10-29

Researchers' Grand Prix RULES

In the Researchers' Grand Prix, researchers compete to make the most understandable, captivating and inspiring presentation of their research in four minutes.

Local or regional competitions are arranged in conjunction with the science festival ForskarFredag where the winners will move on to the national finals in Stockholm in December. The competition is mainly held in Swedish, but competition entries in English are allowed.

The national finals are carried out by the non-profit organisation Vetenskap & Allmänhet, VA and the research councils Formas, Forte, the Swedish Research Council, and Vinnova.

Purpose and target audience

- show how research can be conveyed in an understandable, captivating and inspiring way
- develop researchers' ability to communicate about their research and appreciate the value of doing so
- provide the audience with an entertaining experience while learning more about research
- raise awareness and the status of science communication
- demonstrate the breadth of Swedish research

The **target audience** for the competition is the general public, primarily teenagers and young adults. Each organiser determines the audience for their own competition.

Competition Format

- 5-9 participants are given **4 minutes** in which to present their research on stage in front of a jury and a public audience.
- Then the three members of the jury, representing **academia, media, and the performing arts**, give their comments and constructive feedback about their respective areas and award **points**.
- The presentation is judged by the jury on the basis of **performance** (*stage presence, design*), **understanding** (*structure, narrative, ease of understanding*) and **research** (*science & description of the scientific method*).
- After all contestants have presented, each participant is given **30-seconds** in which to present a "quick recap" of their presentation, after which the audience either gives a rating for each contestant or votes for their overall favourite.
- Some form of interval then follows while the jury's and the audience's votes are combined.
- A winner is then announced and awarded!

N.Ö.R.D (National Open Nationwide Contest)

Vetenskap & Allmänhet arranges an "online contest" in which researchers throughout the whole of Sweden can compete for a place in the final by submitting a video presentation of themselves. The person who wins this contest gains a place in the final and receives the same coaching as the other finalists.

Competitors

The competitors must work with research in the private or public sector in Sweden, for example:

- College teachers, researchers or people working on applying science or technology
- PhD students

However, the competition is *not* open to anyone who works professionally in science communication, e.g. communication officers, artists working with scientific themes, science centre staff, journalists, etc.

The presentation

- The contestants must produce a presentation of their research with a maximum time limit of four minutes.
- No contestant may continue their presentation longer than the maximum allowed time.
- The presentation can be given in Swedish or English.
- The presentation must not be designed by anyone else; a communicator, colleague or similar. The competitors must own the material themselves but may seek the support and help of experts in different areas.
- It is permitted and even encouraged to use props.
- Using presentation tools such as PowerPoint is allowed. Any images and sound clips used must be copyright-free.
- Participants will be offered guidance/coaching in presentation techniques by the local organisers prior to the competitions. Note that this is *mandatory* for organisers and participants!

Judging and Scoring

- The jury and the audience rate each contestant according to a scale where 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest score.
- The voting can be done by means of Mentimeter buttons, SMS voting, scorecards, etc. The results are not shown to the audience.
- The jury members raise cards/signs showing the number of points that they wish to award after they have provided some feedback following each presentation.
- The public's votes and those of the jury are separately converted into an average score. The two averages are then combined for each competitor. *The audience's votes should count for 2/3 of the total points and the jury's 1/3.* The final points are kept hidden from the audience.

Final

- In December, a national final will be arranged in Stockholm following the same competition format.
- Participants in the final are those gaining the highest score in each regional heat.
- All finalists are offered personal coaching in presentation techniques approximately one month before the final and the coach meets all the finalists individually. The same coach helps the finalists to refine their presentation at the rehearsals in Stockholm immediately prior to the final.
- The finalists gather in Stockholm the day before the final for a practice run-through, dinner, individual rehearsals on the actual stage and dress rehearsal.

FORMAS

