

UQUAPS

2016 “Pitching Research” Competition

General Information & Timelines (updated: 11 July 2016)

Background

Following on from the great success of its [inaugural edition in 2015](#) ([click here for 2015 Pitch Booklet, Appendix A67](#)), Professor Robert Faff (UQ Business School) is once again co-ordinating a “Pitching Research” competition for UQUAPS in 2016.

For further context to the competition, in 2015:

Overall winner:

Jon McCullough (EAIT): “[Numerical simulation of heat transfer in confined particle suspensions: Thermo-rheological behaviour of hydraulic fracturing fluids \(“Mining Engineering” Appendix A46\)](#)”

Equal Runners up:

Chelsea Gill (BEL): “[Exploring the role of corporate retreats in restoring directed attention \(“Corporate Tourism” Appendix A49\)](#)”

Nakazinga Ndugwa (MABS): “[How to strengthen psycho-social Early Childhood Development \(ECD\) in Uganda’s public health systems \(“Public Health” Appendix A48\)](#)”

YouTube Video URLs for 2015 Final:

1. Gill: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaYchX039Fs>
2. McCullough: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvgbX9oCIHo>
3. Eats: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLCRGpu2P9M&feature=youtu.be>
4. Mahmud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czTkGJTWO2Y&feature=youtu.be>
5. Ndugwa: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPNfHUolx5c&feature=youtu.be>
6. Gorji: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBGEWPR1bUk&feature=youtu.be>
7. Noh: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoUWH2LRmUE>

Eligibility

This year, the competition is open to **ALL pre-confirmation** research students enrolled at UQ (eligibility determined by student status as at the time of the **opening** date for submissions, see below).

(1) Important Dates

- **Information Session (recording available: <https://youtu.be/B6N98r6J-pw>)**
 - **Date/time:** 2pm Friday 13 May, 2016
 - **Venue:** Social Sciences Building 24-S304
- **Opening of Pitch Submissions:** Friday 1 July, 2016 (via PitchMyResearch.com)
- **Pitch Submission Deadline:** Monday 12 September, 2016 12 noon
- **Finalist Decision Notification:** Monday 10 October, 2016
- **FINAL:** Wednesday 2 November, 2016 (details to be confirmed)

(2) Prizemoney

The **UQ Business School** has generously agreed to sponsor a total prize pool of up to **\$10,000** (depending on the quality/quantity of submissions).

- Overall Winner stands to win a prize of (up to) **\$5,000** (minimum \$3,000) based exclusively on **written** submission quality.
- One “people’s choice” award of **\$1,000** will be based on **oral** presentation at the final.
- More details will be publicised later in the year.

(3) Submission Process

All entries into the competition must be made via the web portal:

PitchMyResearch.com

The first step is to register as a user, then click on the button “pitching competitions” and follow the instructions.

(4) Further Enquiries

For any clarifications or queries regarding the pitch competition requirements, please email Professor Faff directly: UQUAPS2016.pitching@business.uq.edu.au

Pitcher's Name	Robert Faff	Purpose	Master Cued Version for Pitcher
(A) Working Title	Succinct / informative title here		
(B) Basic Research Question	In one sentence, define the key features of the research question		
(C) Key paper(s)	Identify the key paper(s) which most critically underpin the topic (just standard reference details). Ideally one paper, but at most 3 papers. Ideally, by "gurus" in the field, either recently published in Tier 1 journal(s) or recent working paper e.g. on SSRN.		
(D) Motivation / Puzzle	In one short paragraph (say a max of 100 words) capture the core motivation - which may include identifying a "puzzle" that you hope to resolve.		
THREE	Three core aspects of any empirical research project i.e. the "IDioTs" guide		
(E) Idea	Identify the "core" idea that drives the intellectual content of this research topic. If possible, articulate the central hypothesis(es). Identify the key dependent ("explained") variable and the key test/independent ("explanatory") variable(s). Is there any serious threat from endogeneity here? If so, what is the identification strategy? E.g. is there a natural experiment or exogenous shock that can be exploited? Is there any theoretical "tension" that can be exploited?		
(F) Data	(1) What data do you propose to use? e.g. country/setting; Why? Unit of analysis? Individuals, firms, portfolios, industries, countries ...? sample period; sampling interval? Daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, annual, ... Type of data: firm specific vs. industry vs. macro vs. ...? (2) What sample size do you expect? Cross-sectionally? In Time-series/longitudinal? (3) Is it a panel dataset? (4) Data Sources? Are the data commercially available? Any hand-collecting required? Are the data to be created based on your own survey instrument? Or by interviews? Timeframe? Research assistance needed? Funding/grants? Are they novel new data? (5) Will there be any problem with missing data/observations? Database merge issues? Data manipulation/"cleansing" issues? (6) Will your "test" variables exhibit adequate ("meaningful") variation to give good power? Quality/reliability of data? (7) Other data obstacles? E.g. external validity? construct validity?		
(G) Tools	Basic empirical framework and research design? Is it a regression model approach? Survey instrument issues/design? Interview design?		

	Econometric software needed/appropriate for job? Accessible through normal channels? Knowledge of implementation of appropriate or best statistical/econometric tests? Compatibility of data with planned empirical framework? Is statistical validity an issue?
TWO	Two key questions
(H) What's New?	Is the novelty in the idea/data/tools? Which is the "driver", and are the "passengers" likely to pull their weight? Is this "Mickey Mouse" [i.e. can you draw a simple Venn diagram to depict the novelty in your proposal?]
(I) So What?	Why is it important to know the answer? How will major decisions/behaviour/activity etc be influenced by the outcome of this research?
ONE	One bottom line
(J) Contribution?	What is the primary source of the contribution to the relevant research literature?
(K) Other Considerations	Is Collaboration needed/desirable? - idea/data/tools? (either internal or external to your institution) Target Journal(s)? Realistic? Sufficiently ambitious? Risk assessment ["low" vs. "moderate" vs. "high": "no result" risk; "competitor" risk (ie being beaten by a competitor); risk of "obsolescence"; other risks? Are there any serious challenge(s) that you face in executing this plan? What are they? Are they related to the Idea? The Data? The Tools? Are there ethical considerations? Ethics clearance? Is the scope appropriate? Not too narrow, not too broad.

This pitch has been created at <http://PitchMyResearch.com> using a template modified from Faff, Robert W., Pitching Research (11 Jan 2015). Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2462059>