

UNIVERSITY MEDALLISTS 2022

FACULTY OF ARTS

Sebastian Candido

Nominated by Macquarie Law School



Sebastian completed a combined degree in the Bachelor of Arts with the Bachelor of Laws (Honours). Throughout the course of his studies, Sebastian was an outstanding student with a LAW WAM of 84.043 including 15 High Distinctions in Law subjects and 21 High Distinctions in total across his combined degree and an outstanding honours thesis mark of 94%.

During his candidature at Macquarie University, he was awarded an impressive array of prizes in both his Law and Arts subject, including awards for highest achiever in a unit of study.

Sebastian scored in the top 2 for his Semester 1 2022 Honours Thesis and his mark was more than

10 marks above the average honours grade.

Alejandra Lizbeth Gutierrez Hernandez (Graduated in absentia)

Nominated by the Department of Media, Communications, Creative Arts, Language, and Literature

Alejandra came to Macquarie University in 2018 to complete a Master of International Communication (ICOM). Her outstanding results in this degree culminated in high distinction grades for most of her units, and an overall GPA of 6.667.

Alejandra's remarkable efforts in the Master of ICOM were also recognised with several official awards. She was ranked as the Highest Achiever in five separate units across 2018 and 2019 and was also awarded the Macquarie University Award for Academic Excellence, and the prestigious Endeavour Leadership Program (ELP) from the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

In 2022 Alejandra submitted her Master of Research thesis entitled 'Representation of Femicide and Femicide Victims in Mexican Contemporary Digital Texts: Cultural Trauma and Testimony', resulting in an overall grade of 93%.

Alejandra finished first in her 2021 Master of Research cohort, and she was also the only candidate to be awarded a grade of 90 or above in the Department of Media, Communication, Creative Arts, Language and Literature. Across the Faculty, amongst all completing Master of Research year 2 candidates from 2021 and 2022, Alejandra achieved an astonishing rank of 6 out of 134.

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FACULTY OF ARTS

Madeline Jenkins

Nominated by the Department of History and Archaeology



Madeline completed the Bachelor in Ancient History as the most accomplished candidate of her cohort. She received high distinctions for every unit she completed with a perfect GPA of 4.0 on a 4-point scale which reflects this success. She was also awarded numerous Merit List distinctions every year of her undergraduate degree. Amongst these were prizes reflecting her ranking by the department as one of the top achievers at 300-level and her identification at Faculty level as the highest achiever in more than one unit of study.

This impressive profile only continued in her time as a Master of Research candidate. In 2019 she was awarded both the Macquarie University Award for Academic Excellence and the Ancient History Bachelor of Philosophy Prize, having achieved a high distinction in all but a single unit (for which she was awarded a distinction with 82%). For this she achieved an outstanding GPA of 6.875 on a 7-point scale.

Her Master of Research thesis, on the topic '*Sadness*' in the Ancient Egyptian Lexicon: A Lexical-Semantic Analysis of the Lexeme *ind*, broke new ground in Egyptological language studies by bringing together History of Emotions research with the cutting edge of Egyptological linguistic approaches. The result was a complete reappraisal of how we should be studying ancient emotion words. Both examiners awarded Madeline a mark of 96%. The results of the Master of Research thesis were so strong that a summary of the key outcomes has already been accepted for publication by the flagship peer-reviewed journal for Ancient Egyptian language studies, *Lingua Aegyptia*.

Madeline's Master of Research thesis mark of 96% was the highest Master of Research mark in History and Archaeology for any thesis submitted either in 2020 or 2021. This is an extraordinary achievement in the largest cohort in the faculty, as it made hers the highest mark amongst 59 students. Her combined total mark of 96% also put her in the first place in her cohort.

Madeline was awarded a total of 27 prizes from her studies as an undergraduate and a postgraduate and was one of the highest-achieving candidates for the discipline of Ancient History.

Mozart Olbrycht-Palmer (Graduated in absentia)

Nominated by Macquarie Law School

Mozart commenced his studies at Macquarie University in 2019 with a Master of Laws scoring distinctions and high distinctions including a mark of 95% in Research Methodologies in Law earning him the Macquarie Law School Prize and the Faculty of Arts 'Highest Achiever in a Unit of Study' Award.

In 2020, Mozart achieved an outstanding result of 93% in International Human Rights Law for which he was also awarded Faculty of Arts Highest Achiever in a Unit of Study Award.

Mozart completed his Master of Law in 2020 with a WAM of 84.5.

There had been 14 Masters of Research Completions in the Law School between 2018 and 2021, Mozart was the first law student to have been awarded the Master of Research degree without corrections. Significantly, Mozart was the highest performing student achieving a final overall grade of 92% for the Master of Research.

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FACULTY OF ARTS

Charlotte Wilkinson-Bibicos (graduated in absentia)

Nominated by the Department of History and Archaeology

Charlotte demonstrated sustained excellence throughout her studies at Macquarie University and completed the Bachelor of Ancient History degree with exceptional academic achievements. For her six Ancient History subjects, Charlotte achieved five high distinctions and one distinction, equating to a WAM of 90.833. During a single year, Charlotte achieved six academic prizes.

Charlotte commenced her Bachelor of Philosophy at Macquarie University in 2020 and continued to excel in her studies. For her six graded units of graduate study, Charlotte achieved four high distinctions and two distinctions, equating to a WAM of 87.667, and placing her on the 2020 University Merit List, where she stayed throughout 2021. Several of her assessment tasks in the Bachelor of Psychology have been retained by unit convenors as exemplars for future students to support and guide their work.

Despite the significant challenges facing all students through the COVID pandemic, Charlotte's approach to her Master of Research thesis was professional, well organised, and characterised by deep intellectual rigour. Her thesis topic is one of profound significance and necessity to ancient world studies in general and Egyptian and Nubian history and archaeology in particular – *"The 'Egyptianisation' of Nubia: A Historiographical Review of a Persistent Concept in Egyptology"*. Her thesis was exceptionally well received by her two examiners who awarded her a final grade of 95%. Her overall Master of Research mark was 94%, placing her amongst the highest achievers to emerge from the Department of History and Archaeology since the commencement of the Master of Research program.

Charlotte's overall Master of Research mark of 94% made her the highest-ranking student of her cohort in year 2 and second in year 1. She also received numerous Academic Prizes and Merit List citations during her studies at Macquarie University.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Gareth Mason

Nominated by Macquarie Medical School



Gareth demonstrated sustained excellence in the Doctor of Medicine (MD). He had the highest WAM across the cohort and achieved 5 distinctions and 14 high distinctions across the 19 units.

Gareth was awarded several prestigious Macquarie University MD tuition scholarships and two MD prizes. As an exceptional scholar, he also performed well as an undergraduate student in the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences during which he achieved a perfect GPA of 7.0, 24 high distinctions, and several awards.

Gareth had the highest weighted average mark in his cohort with 89.82.

UNIVERSITY MEDALLISTS 2022

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Emily Scott

Nominated by the School of Psychological Sciences



Emily achieved a consistently outstanding academic record throughout her candidature in the Bachelor of Psychology (Honours). She also received several academic prizes from the Department of Psychology and from the Faculty of Arts and made the University Merit List on three occasions.

Emily achieved distinctions and high distinctions as part of the Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) achieving an overall WAM of 94. This included 15 High Distinctions in Psychology units.

In comparison with her peers, Emily presented a consistently high level of academic performance as part of studies.

Anita Shimmins

Nominated by the School of Psychological Sciences

Anita finished equal third in the Honours cohort for 2021 and achieved a consistently outstanding academic record throughout her candidature. She received four prizes, three from the Department of Psychology and one from the Faculty of Arts, and she also made the University Merit list on two occasions.

Emily achieved distinctions and high distinctions as part of the Bachelor of Psychology (Honors) achieving an overall WAM of 92. This included high distinctions for all but two of her Psychology units.



In comparison with her peers, Emily presented in the top three and was only two marks away from the highest student in honours. Anita was consistently outstanding throughout her undergraduate performance compared with the other top ranking honours students.

Ashley Woodbury

Nominated by the Department of Health Sciences

(Photo unavailable)

Ashley demonstrated sustained excellence throughout her studies in the Doctor of Physiotherapy with 19 high distinctions and 5 distinctions, achieving an average mark per unit of 90. Her exceptional performance was further evident in the award of four Doctor of Physiotherapy prizes and ten further accolades for outstanding performance within the Doctor of Physiotherapy.

Ashley's research performance was exceptional, as exemplified by being awarded the 2021 Doctor of Physiotherapy Research Excellence Award. Ashley received a High Distinction for all pieces of assessment within this unit and achieved 96% - the maximum numerical grade she could receive.

UNIVERSITY MEDALLISTS 2022

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

The Huong (Kevin) Chau

Nominated by the School of Natural Sciences



The Huong (Kevin) Chau demonstrated sustained excellence throughout his studies at Macquarie University in the Bachelor of Advanced Science and Master of Research.

Kevin attracted multiple prestigious and competitive scholarships including the Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarship (2017), the Macquarie University ASEAN Scholarship and the International Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship (iMQRES-MASTER OF RESEARCH) Scholarship.

Further demonstrating excellence and an exceptional potential for future impact, Kevin was awarded several highly prestigious internal and external awards and prizes including:

- Royal Society of New South Wales Scholarship (2021)
- Molecular Sciences Prize for Excellence in the Master of Research Year 1 (2020)
- Australian Amgen Scholars Program, University of Melbourne (2020)
- Le Fevre Memorial Prize for proficiency in 200-level Physical Chemistry units (2018)
- Macquarie University 2018 Merit List: top 1% highest achieving student (2018)

Kevin produced a high-quality Master of Research thesis which resulted in a grade of 92% which was well above the average for the cohort of students who received their grades in 2022.

Fredo Chavez

Nominated by the School of Engineering

Fredo completed a Bachelor of Science in Electronics & Communications Engineering, Saint Louis University, Philippines, 2011. He graduated Cum Laude, with a weighted average grade of 88.5/100. He then undertook partial graduate studies during the period 2014-2019, at Saint Louis University, Philippines, before applying to Macquarie Engineering. This was part of a Master of Engineering (Electronics Engineering). During this time, Fredo completed 16 subjects with an average mark of 96.4 and with a minimum score of 93/100.



Fredo completed his Master of Engineering in Electronics Engineering (MEngElec) at Macquarie University with a weighted average mark (WAM) across his whole degree is 92.2. This includes a WAM of 91.4 across all 8000-level units. All awarded grades were High Distinctions. He was awarded the inaugural Altium RF High Performance IC Design Prize for his performance in ELEC8870 High Performance IC Design, receiving a mark of 96.

Fredo was the top student in his cohort for both his coursework overall, and his thesis project work. Within the Master of Engineering in Electronics Engineering there were three other students with thesis/project grades from 87-89 (compared to 90 for Fredo in Project 2), his overall WAM of 92.2 was significantly superior with respect to other students in the cohort, with the next highest WAM of 86.0.

UNIVERSITY MEDALLISTS 2022

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Kara Fry

Nominated by the School of Natural Sciences



Kara's grades over the course of her study at Macquarie University were impeccable. Her overall undergraduate GPA (4-point scale) was 3.818, and 4.000 at 300 level. The continued rise in her performance was unabated at post graduate level with her overall Master of Research coursework mark being 90% with her thesis receiving an overall grade of 93%.

Kara received several awards that reflected her academic quality including:

- Macquarie University Merit List
- Professor Judyth Sachs PACE Prize (Highly Commended); 2017 – Crozcare Field
- Geology Prize for proficiency in Introduction to Field Geology.

Kara produced a high-quality Master of Research thesis and was awarded a grade of 93% which was well above the average of 87.73% for the cohort who received their grades in 2022.

Ying Li

Nominated by the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Ying completed a Masters of Applied Statistics from Macquarie University in 2021, on a competitive Vice Chancellor's International Scholarship, after which she transferred to the 2nd year of the Master of Research degree, where she completed a year-long research project.

Ying's grades in her coursework master's degree were exceptional. With a GPA of 6.875 at the 8000-level and a WAM of 90.5 (7 high distinction grades and one distinction), she scored highest in her cohort. Her academic excellence has been recognised with the Department of Economics prize for ECON8040, the Julian Leslie prize for 8000 level statistics, and the Macquarie University award for academic excellence.



In 2022 Ying was awarded a competitive International Research Excellent Scholarship to pursue research at the master's level. Her thesis achieved an outstanding grade of 92%, with Examiner 1 describing it as "one of the best graduate theses I have ever read".

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FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Ailie Mackenzie

Nominated by the School of Natural Sciences



Ailie successfully completed a 4-year double degree (Bachelor of Arts with the degree of Bachelor of Science) in 2018 with an outstanding overall GPA of 3.912/4.00 and a GPA of 3.923/4.00 at 300 level. In addition, she was awarded two prestigious undergraduate awards in two subject areas from her double degree:

- 2016 Faculty of Arts Highest Achiever in a Unit of Study Award for JPS124
- Ralph Faulkner prize for BIOL381 Evolutionary Palaeontology

– top student in 300 level palaeontology unit.

Ailie commenced a Master of Research degree and received high distinction in all her units. This outstanding achievement resulted in her being awarded the Master of Research Year 1 Biology prize for the best Biology student overall in the Master of Research coursework year. She completed her Master of Research being awarded with a final mark of 92% which was the highest grade in her cohort.

Cassandra Wheeler

Nominated by the School of Natural Sciences

Cassandra is a passionate early career Earth Scientist who has demonstrated sustained excellence throughout her studies at Macquarie University.

During her undergraduate studies she achieved an excellent GPA of 6.3 out of 7, improving further to 6.6 at the 3000-level. During her first year of the Master of Research she attained high distinctions in all eight units taken, for a WAM of 90.6, placing her on the 2021 Merit List.



Cassandra's performance during Year 2 of the Master of Research when she conducted a research project was truly outstanding, despite the major disruptions and laboratory closures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cassandra was invited to present on her Master of Research at the 2021 GSA Earth Sciences Student Symposium and went on to win both the best presentation prize and the 'People's Choice Prize'.

Cassandra produced a high-quality Master of Research thesis being awarded a grade of 93% which was well above the average of 87.73% for the cohort who received their grades in 2022.