

UNIVERSITY MEDALLISTS 2023

FACULTY OF ARTS

Jessika Burrell

Nominated by Macquarie Law School



Jessika completed a combined degree in Bachelor of Media with the degree of Bachelor of Laws (Honours) at Macquarie University. Throughout the course of her studies Jessika was an outstanding student with an exceptional LAWS WAM of 87.261. Her grades across the 24 LAWS units completed in her course include 19 high distinctions and 4 distinctions.

Jessika was awarded an impressive array of prizes in both her Law and Media units including several Faculty of Arts Highest Achiever Awards in a Unit of Study, as well as being recognised on the merit list across four years.

In 2022, Jessika completed her Law Honours thesis entitled '*Keeping the Lights On: An Analysis of Low Income Consumer Protections in Off-Grid Microgrids in New South Wales and Ontario*' for which she achieved an outstanding final grade of 90%.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Naomi Fenton

Nominated by the Department of Psychology

Naomi achieved a consistently outstanding academic record throughout her candidature with an overall WAM of 90.31. She also made the University Merit list on three occasions and received two awards from the Faculty of Arts as highest achiever in a unit.

Naomi achieved an overall Honours grade of 92%, placing her equal first in the cohort of 117 students.



Sofie French

Nominated by the Department of Health Sciences



Sofie demonstrated sustained excellence throughout her studies in the Doctor of Physiotherapy with 19 high distinctions and 3 distinctions across her 23 units.

Sofie was awarded a number of departmental prizes for outstanding academic achievement in several units. She was also awarded the 2023 Australian Physiotherapy Association Award for Academic Excellence and 2023 Doctor of Physiotherapy Excellence in Clinical Practice Prize.

Compared to her cohort Sofie demonstrated excellent performance including coming overall first in her oral presentation.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Rathina Srinivasa Ragavan

Nominated by Macquarie Medical School



Rathina demonstrated sustained excellence in the Doctor of Medicine (MD) after completing a Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Honours) at Monash University. She achieved the highest WAM across the cohort and was awarded with a 9 high distinctions and 7 distinctions across 19 units.

Rathina's exceptional performance is further evidenced by the award of the prestigious Macquarie University MD Medical Leader of the Future scholarship awarded to her as she the highest ranked student entering the Doctor of Medicine program. The Grade Point Average (GPA) in her undergraduate degree at Monash University was 6.833/7.0.

Rathina's performance within the Macquarie MD was outstanding, particularly in the final 2 years of the MD where she achieved 6 high distinctions and 2 distinctions out of the 8 units of study and was ranked first in her final two units with a mark of 95% in both units.

Mitchell Robinson

Nominated by the Department of Linguistics

Mitchell Robinson demonstrated exemplary ability in his studies at Macquarie University. As an undergraduate student, Mitchell achieved 19 high distinctions and 4 distinctions and a GPA of 4.0 on a four-point scale. In the first year of the Master of Research he was awarded 8 high distinctions with a GPA of 7 on a seven-point scale.

For Mitchell's thesis he identified a gap in the language acquisition research on the central topic of linguistic recursion. Mitchell's research made an important contribution to our understanding of the emergence of recursive syntax. The examiners for his thesis commented that it had been professionally written and the results and literature had been awarding a final thesis grade 95%.



FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Ali Hassan Fawaz

Nominated by the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences



Ali completed a Bachelor of Advanced Science at Macquarie University in 2020 with a WAM of 95.0, achieving high distinctions for every unit. The lowest mark he received in his entire course of study was a 90 and he was awarded a number of prizes for top marks in different units including the 2020 Professor Judyth Sachs PACE Prize for outstanding achievement in a project undertaken as part of a PACE unit. Ali was also nominated to the 2021 University Merit List.

Ali continued his successful academic pathway at Macquarie University with a postgraduate two year Master of Research and completed the first year with a WAM of 92.125 (7 high distinctions and 1 distinction). He was awarded the 2021 Macquarie University Award for Academic Excellence, another nomination to the 2022 Merit List and a Macquarie University Research Excellence (MRes) Stipend Scholarship for MRes year 2.

As a post-graduate student member of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Engineered Quantum Systems (EQUS), Ali also presented the scientific results of his thesis work as a poster at the EQUS annual workshop in 2022. Further, his thesis results earned Ali an Executive Dean's Commendation for Academic Excellence in Year 2 Master of Research and a nomination for the AIP TH Laby medal. His final thesis grade of 93% was the top mark in his cohort.

Hannah Lott

Nominated by the Department of Molecular Sciences

Hannah demonstrated sustained excellence throughout her academic career, achieving high distinctions in both her undergraduate degree (at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS)) where she graduated with a WAM of 90.79 and in her Master of Research program at Macquarie University (MQ). She won the best poster award at an international conference and is a co-author on a recently accepted article in a high-profile journal, Nature Communications.

Hannah's studies in the Bachelor of Philosophy (BPhil) at Macquarie University earned her a WAM of 91.75, and the highest grades in her cohort. She was awarded a Macquarie University Research Excellence scholarship for the 2nd year of the Master of Research and achieved a final Master of Research grade of 93% which was well above the average grade for the cohort from the discipline of Molecular Sciences in 2022. She won multiple prizes that highlight her academic excellence including the Molecular Sciences Prize for Academic Excellence at Macquarie University.

