

FACULTY OF ARTS

Elizabeth Branagh

Nominated by the Department of History and Archaeology



Elizabeth met every definition of excellence during her Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Philosophy (BPhil) and in the Master of Research (MRes).

During the Bachelor of Arts her WAM was 88.56, and during the BPhil it was 91.7. The quality of her performance was recognised with numerous prizes at Departmental, Faculty and University level.

Elizabeth completed her Bachelor of Arts, having been awarded a merit scholarship to complete the degree. She was a regular recipient of the Highest Achievement in a Unit (8 times) and a

Merit List awardee every year of her undergraduate enrolment. She was also recognised as a top performer in her History cohort. In 2021 she was awarded the MJD Roberts Prize for achievement in 2000 units, and in 2021 the Boeyen Prize for the most outstanding student completing a major in History. While completing her research training in the BPhil, she was the Highest Achiever in all the units she completed that year.

Elizabeth's thesis investigated the 'birth' and then 'fate' of Phone A Friend (a 'counselling service' for gays and lesbians in Sydney), she used this as a window to rewrite how we understand the organising distinctions of queer political history. She was awarded 95% for the thesis with an overall mark for 94.4% for the MRes.

Elizabeth was the top performing student in the Faculty of Arts cohort for both the BPhil and the MRes. She was the only student in the Department of History and Archaeology to achieve a high distinction in every unit.

Maia Brauner (*Medal awarded following graduation*)

Nominated by Macquarie Law School

Maia completed a combined Bachelor of Arts with Bachelor of Laws, Hons class 1 (BALLB) (Hons 1) degree in July 2023. Her overall LAWS WAM was 86.538 and during the course of her studies, she was 1st in 8 of her Law elective units and achieved 18 high distinctions.

Maia was awarded with many prizes over her four academic years at Macquarie University, e.g., highest achiever in several units of study, being on the merit list for a course, and being awarded the Macquarie University Award for Academic Excellence.

Maia achieved the highest LAWS WAM in her cohort of 140 students and the highest grade for the Law Honours thesis in a cohort of 53 students of 96%.

UNIVERSITY MEDALLISTS 2024

Simone Conyer

Nominated by Macquarie Law School



Simone qualified in a combined degree in the Bachelor of Security Studies with the degree of Bachelor of Laws (Honours Class 1) in December 2023.

Ms Conyer achieved an overall LAWS WAM of 87.043 and was placed first in 5 of her law units during her studies. Enrolments in these units are typically over 500 students, making this a particularly notable achievement of significant academic excellence.

Throughout her studies Simone was awarded a number of prizes which included: Highest Achiever in a Unit of Study for a number of units, Herbert Smith Freehills Prize for Property Law, Dr MRLK Kelly Prize for Administrative Law, and was placed on the Merit list for her course in 2022.

Simone had the highest LAWS WAM in her graduating cohort of 239 Law students and the second highest grade for the Law Honours thesis in a cohort of 68 students. Her combined thesis grade of 89.4 was the second highest thesis mark of the cohort.

Mark Matic

Nominated by the Department of History and Archaeology

Mark was an outstanding student who performed at a consistently high level throughout his candidature. He completed a Master of Arts, achieving a GPA of 3.750 (on a 4 pt scale), a Bachelor of Arts achieving a WUG of 94.143, and won a host of prizes and awards.

Mark continued to conduct his studies to the same high standard during his Bachelor of Philosophy candidature in Ancient History in 2021, achieving high distinctions and resulting in a WAM of 86.500.

Mark prepared his Master of Research (MRes) thesis on linguistic features of ancient Greek translations of the Old Testament, in which he sought to identify signs of fluency and formal Greek education independent of Hebrew interference. He achieved a thesis mark of 93%, comfortably being a top performing MRes student in the Department of History and Archaeology for 2023.



UNIVERSITY MEDALLISTS 2024

Judith-Grace Vella

Nominated by Macquarie Law School



Judith-Grace completed her combined degree, Bachelor of Arts – Psychology with the degree of Bachelor of Laws (Hons I) in June 2024 achieving 24 high distinctions (15 in Law) and 14 distinctions (8 in Law) across her double degree including a score of 90% or above in 8 of her units of study.

Judith-Grace's overall LAWS WAM was 85.913 and she was awarded with a number of prizes, e.g., the Barry Scott Prize for Human Geography, Faculty of Arts Highest Achiever in a Unit of Study award and was placed on the course merit list for each year of her studies.

Judith-Grace's thesis title was "The Shift from Capacity to Support: Harmonising a Rights-Based Approach to Supported Decision-Making for Older People in Australia" and was awarded a mark of 95% by both examiners.

Ms Vella had the highest mark across the honours program and highest WAM in the Bachelor of Laws in her cohorts.

MACQUARIE BUSINESS SCHOOL

Andrew Shan

Nominated by the Department of Actuarial Studies and Business Analytics

Andrew demonstrated sustained excellence throughout his studies and evidenced a number of impressive academic achievements and recognition through prizes and awards, with a WAM of 90/100 and a first-class honours grade.

Andrew was on the merit list for his course over the four years of study. Additionally, Andrew received two additional prizes, including the prestigious KPMG Actuaries Prize for First Year Actuarial Studies and Highest Achiever in unit award for a unit in Actuarial Statistics.

Andrew successfully completed his thesis in 2023, achieving an impressive overall grade of 87/100. His thesis, titled "Modelling Economic Loss and Risk from Tornadoes in the United States with Generalised Additive Models for Location, Scale, and Shape," received highly positive feedback from the examiners.

Andrew's performance stood out amongst his cohort, consistently demonstrating excellence both in coursework and in his thesis. He consistently ranked at the top of his cohorts.



FACULTY OF MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Tara Arrow

Nominated by the School of Psychological Sciences



Tara studied a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) with the degree of Bachelor of Laws and finished equal first in Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) cohort for 2023 with an overall honours mark of 90.88.

Tara achieved a consistently outstanding academic record throughout her candidature, making the University Merit list twice, being awarded with two department prizes, and the Faculty of Arts High Achiever Award for several units.

Tara achieved high distinctions in all but two of her units which were award with distinctions. Her overall Honours WAM was 91 placing her equal first in a cohort of 99 students. Tara performed at a consistently outstanding level throughout her undergraduate performance compared with most of the other top ranking honours students.

Eva Basford

Nominated by the School of Psychological Sciences

Eva studied the Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) and finished third in her cohort with an overall honours mark of 90.13. She achieved a consistently outstanding academic record throughout her candidature, making the University Merit list three times, being awarded with two department prizes, and twice being awarded the Faculty of Arts Highest Achiever Award.

Eva achieved high distinctions for all units except one, where a distinction was awarded. She had an overall WAM of 90.68 placing her third in the student cohort of 99 students.



Caitlin Compton

Nominated by Macquarie Medical School



Caitlin demonstrated sustained excellence in the Doctor of Medicine (MD). She had the highest WAM across the cohort and achieved 11 high distinctions and 8 distinctions.

Caitlin's exceptional performance was further evidenced by her receipt of the prestigious Macquarie University MD tuition scholarship and prizes including the Macquarie University MD Leader of the Future Scholarship (awarded for highest ranked domestic student admitted to the course) and the Halder Chowdhury Prize for Medicine Year 1 which is awarded to the top performing student in Year 1 of the degree. In 2024 Caitlin achieved the highest weighted average mark across her cohort

at 88.57.

As part of the Macquarie MD, students also complete an independent research project. The research project accounts for 10% of the credit points in the 4-year Doctor of Medicine Course. Caitlin excelled at this research, producing a manuscript the independent assessor noted meets the standards for Publication in BMJOpen. She was awarded the highest score for the MD Research Project for her year.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Dean Marinucci (Graduated in Absentia)

Nominated by the School of Natural Sciences

Dean demonstrated a consistently high level of academic performance throughout the Bachelor of Science (BSc), Bachelor of Philosophy (BPhil) and Master of Research (MRes). While originally aiming to major in Education, Dean found his calling in Chemistry and excelled as a high distinction student in his BSc with a WAM of 91.8 in the BPhil with a WAM of 92.1, achieving a final MRes grade of 90.1% which was well above the average of 86.13% from the School of Natural Sciences (Discipline of Molecular Science).

Dean also received multiple awards during his studies, including:

- Le Fevre Memorial Prize for 200 level: 2019
- John Morris Scientific Prize: 2019
- 2020 Merit List
- FSE Highest Achiever in Unit Award NSCI7900: 2022
- Molecular Sciences Prize for Excellence in BPhil: 2022 (Ben Cordner Memorial Fund)
- 2023 Merit List

Brad Neimann

Nominated by the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences



Brad completed a Bachelor of Science (BSc) at Macquarie University in 2021 with a WAM of 85.478. During his undergraduate studies at Macquarie University, he obtained a total of 14 high distinctions and 3 distinctions.

His excellent performance at undergraduate level earned him the Macquarie University Award for Academic Excellence in 2021 and the Geology Prize for Earth Dynamics in 2019. He was also the recipient of summer research scholarships in the Department of Molecular Sciences and the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Brad completed the Bachelor of Philosophy (BPhil) in 2022 with a WAM of 87, 6 high distinctions and 1

distinction. In 2023 Brad completed his Master of Research (MRes) research project exploring the role of polarisation in LiDAR sensing from a body of water. Brad's thesis received a mark of 93 and excellent examiners' reports.

In comparison with the other six students in the same cohort in the BPhil, Brad compared strongly with a WUG of 87. He also distinguished himself with a thesis score of 93% which was higher than the other thesis score from this cohort.

UNIVERSITY MEDALLISTS 2024

Elizabeth Cappellazzo

Nominated by the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences



Elizabeth Cappellazzo completed a Bachelor of Science (BSc) at Macquarie University in 2021 with a WAM of 95.053. During her undergraduate studies at Macquarie University, she achieved a high distinction in all 19 units of her course. Elizabeth also completed the Bachelor of Philosophy (BPhil) with a WAM of 89.750 and 8 high distinctions.

Elizabeth's distinguished academic performance won her several awards and prizes, including the Macquarie University Award for Academic Excellence in 2021 and the FSE Highest Achiever in a unit. She was also the recipient of prizes from external organisations including the Foundation

for Astronomy (2019) and the Australian Institute of Physics (2022).

Elizabeth's MRes thesis presented new observations of regions of interstellar gas that are being violently disrupted by the intense radiation and stellar winds of the highest-mass stars. The final mark for her thesis was graded at 90%.

Isabella Steen

Nominated by the School of Natural Sciences

Isabella demonstrated sustained excellence throughout her academic career and consistently achieved high distinctions throughout the Bachelor of Advanced Science, the Bachelor of Philosophy (BPhil), followed by receiving the highest grade of the cohort in the Master of Research (MRes Year 2).

Isabella was a recipient of numerous awards including two Dean's Merit List Awards, one for Academic Excellence, the Executive Dean's Commendation for Academic Excellence, a Biomolecular Discovery Research Centre (BDRC) Undergraduate prize, NSW-ACT Branch of the Australian Society for Microbiology Student Prize and Genentech Student Presentation Prize.



Throughout Isabella's studies in the Bachelor of Advanced Science, she received high distinctions in the majority of units (22 out of 24) and graduated with a WAM of 91.478. She then enrolled in the BPhil program, which she successfully graduated in 2022. Once again, she received high distinctions in the majority of her units (7 out of 8) and graduated with a WAM of 88.75.

Isabella was awarded the Macquarie University Research Excellence Stipend Scholarship for her MRes Y2 program. In her thesis she mapped the protein glycosylation differences between cancer and immune cells isolated from the ascites fluid of ovarian cancer patients. Overall, Isabella's thesis was awarded 93% and her final MRes YR2 grade was 92.8%, receiving the highest in her cohort for 2024.