

FACULTY OF ARTS



James Brannan

Nominated by the Macquarie Law School

James Brannan graduated at the top of his cohort in Law with First Class Honours and a LAWS WAM of 84.52. During his study of Laws, he achieved seventeen High Distinction grades and ten Distinction grades, and his grades were consistently excellent across the five years of his study. He also received a High Distinction grade for his Honours thesis. James achieved similarly excellent results in his Arts degree, having never received a grade lower than a Distinction in any of his graded units. This is an extraordinary achievement and demonstrated the sustained excellence required for the University Medal. During his studies, James received a number Highest Achiever Awards and appeared on the Merit List.

Ewan Coopey

Nominated by the Department of History and Archaeology

Ewan Coopey completed a Bachelor of Ancient History in 2018, achieving Distinction and High Distinction grades in all 24 units taken, with the majority (17/24 units) at High Distinction. His GPA shows an exceptional achievement with an overall GPA of 4.000 on a 4-point scale. He also received a total of 8 Faculty of Arts Highest Achiever Awards. The Department identified him as the top student of 2017 undertaking 200/2000 level work and top jointly with other students undertaking 300/3000 level work in 2018. During his undergraduate studies, he worked on the Macquarie Excavation in Croatia and co-created the Macquarie City of Rome Blog as a PACE intern.

For his Bachelor of Philosophy (2019), he continued this pattern with 7 out of 8 units being awarded High Distinction marks (the eighth unit at 83% - a distinction). This resulted in a GPA of 6.875 on a 7-point scale and a Macquarie University Award for Academic Excellence. His Master of Research thesis was awarded a mark of 98% with one examiner awarding a mark of 100%. The work demonstrates the pulling together of his experience as an undergraduate student developing his knowledge of Latin, its application in the study of inscriptions, and his discovery through field work of a passion for research in Croatia with advanced research skills developed in the Bachelor of Philosophy.



MACQUARIE BUSINESS SCHOOL



Hamid Yahyaei

Nominated by the Department of Applied Finance

Hamid has demonstrated sustained excellence from the beginning of his university studies at Macquarie University. He first enrolled in the Bachelor of Applied Finance and graduated (in 2015) with an overall GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.71 (on a scale of 4). He graduated with three academic prizes under his belt and high grades (Distinction and above) throughout.

Hamid's Master of Research thesis explored the cross-section between financial markets and monetary policy, finding that the effects of large-scale central bank stimulus surpass the bounds of local monetary operations, afflicting cross-border markets. Hamid received a GPA of 7 (out of 7) with a total score of 98.4%, the examiners providing marks of 97 and 100 respectively for his exceptional thesis. The score is not just reflective of the final research thesis but his top

performance in satisfying other course requirements for the degree, and ranked Hamid not only first for the year in the Department but across Macquarie Business School.

His reviewers agreed that the research contributes significantly to understanding the influence that monetary policy enacted by the Federal Reserve can have on Australian bond and equity markets, and in doing so, alerts industry practitioners to the importance of monitoring developments in monetary policy. Both the examiners found the research worthy of top tier journal outlets and that his approach was well suited to undertake an innovative PhD project.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES



Jordan Griffiths

Nominated by the Department of Clinical Medicine

Jordan Griffiths achieved the highest WAM (Weighted Average Mark) across her Doctor of Medicine cohort and earned 11 High Distinctions (210 CP – credit points), 6 Distinctions (80 CP) and 2 Credits (30 CP) across the 19 units (320 CP) in the degree, and also ranking first in five units. Jordan's exceptional performance was further evidence by the award of the most prestigious scholarship and the two prizes available to Doctor of Medicine students. She received outstanding feedback from her practical work (rotations), often being advised she outperformed junior doctors in the same area.

Jordan also excelled as an undergraduate student at Macquarie in the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences. This degree is an accelerated degree with the 3 years condensed into 2 years. During the degree she achieved a perfect GPA of 4/4 and 20 High Distinctions and 4 Distinctions and numerous awards.

Jordan completed a research project as part of the Doctor of Medicine, which the assessor noted met the standards for publication in BMJ Open (British Medical Journal). She achieved three High Distinctions (30 CP) and a Distinction (10 CP) across the four research units in the degree.

Christine Inkley (graduated in absentia)

Nominated by the Department of Psychology

Christine Inkley was ranked first in her Honours cohort for 2020 and demonstrated a consistently outstanding academic record throughout her candidature as well as being the recipient of an impressive six prizes (four from the Department of Psychology and two prizes from the Faculty of Arts). She has also made the University Merit List on three occasions. Throughout her degree she achieved 13 High Distinctions in Psychology units and an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.000.

Her Honours result, a Weighted Average Mark of 92, made her first in a class of 96 students and included a mark of 56.4 out of 60 for the honours thesis.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING



Bridget Campbell

Nominated by the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

Bridget Campbell completed her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Double degree between 2014 and 2018, with Majors in Anthropology and Biology and a Minor in German Studies, achieving an exceptional overall GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.967 out of 4. Across her double degree she received 17 High Distinctions, 12 Distinctions and 1 Credit.

Bridget continued to achieve outstanding results in the coursework component of her Master of Research in 2018-2019, achieving 7 High Distinctions and 1 Distinction, resulting in a GPA of 6.875 out of 7. In the second year of the Master of Research she received an outstanding thesis mark of 93% and a final weighted mark of 92.7% for the

degree, the best result of any Master of Research student in the Department for 2020. It is worth noting that Bridget spent 3 months in the field for her research in remote northeast Arnhem Land living with Aboriginal communities.

Natalie Caulfield

Nominated by the Department of Biological Sciences

Natalie completed a Bachelor of Science in Biodiversity and Conservation with a GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.865 out of 4.0, including High Distinctions in seven units. Her postgraduate studies were even more successful, with Natalie achieving a perfect GPA of 7.0 out of 7.0 for the first year of the Master of Research, with High Distinction grades in every unit.

In the second year of the Master of Research, Natalie achieved in the highest grade in the Department for the year, with an overall mark of 91.3% and a thesis mark of 92%. Her thesis project was logistically complex, and required that Natalie organise and train a small army of volunteers, as well as obtaining permits. The work was also performed in inaccessible and often difficult environments during summer. Not only were conditions challenging, Natalie also had to set-up a field laboratory so that samples could be processed immediately after collection, which was essential due to the relatively short timeframe for completing such a complex process.



FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

**Hugh Entwistle**

Nominated by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Hugh Entwistle graduated from the Bachelor of Advanced Science, which is one of the most exclusive and challenging programs offered by Macquarie University, achieving a GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.962 out of a possible 4.00. He obtained 23 Higher Distinction grades, as well as 2 Distinction grades and 1 Credit grade. He was named on the Macquarie University Merit list in 2016 – 2018 and was awarded the Macquarie University Merit Scholarship from 2016 – 2019.

In 2020, Hugh was awarded the competitive Macquarie University Research Excellence (MRes) Stipend Scholarship to pursue a Master of Research in Mathematics. Hugh performed outstandingly in this

program, receiving 7 Higher Distinction grades and 1 Distinction grade. Hugh received a grade of 92% for his thesis, with individual marks of 91 and 93 from the two examiners.

Hugh submitted one research manuscript to an international peer-reviewed journal based on the first half of his thesis and presented a talk on his work at the AustMS (Australian Mathematical Society) Conference in December 2020, which is Australia's largest and most significant mathematics meeting.

Jacob Pember (graduated in absentia)

Nominated by the Department of Physics and Astronomy

Jacob completed a Bachelor of Science at Macquarie in 2018 with a GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.87 out of 4.0, including 8 High Distinctions, 12 Distinctions and 3 Credits. In 2019 he completed the first year of the Master of Research with a GPA of 6.5/7.0 including 5 High Distinctions and the Australian Institute of Physics prize for best performance at Honours/Masters level study.

In 2020, Jacob completed his Year 2 Master of Research thesis project in astronomical instrumentation. The aims of this project were to develop a science-grade, high resolution Echelle spectrograph for small telescopes, as available at Macquarie's campus observatory. This type of instrument is the tool of choice at professional observatories to hunt for exoplanets via measuring their host star's velocity. However, their cost and complexity put them out of reach of smaller facilities until now. Through innovative optical and mechanical design, Jacob scaled the design concept of leading global instruments to half the size, while reducing the cost by a factor of 100. Resolution and bandwidth are on par with state-of-the-art instruments, and calibration precision is 3m/s – the best instruments in the world, produced by large teams and built over years, are at 0.5m/s.

Jacob has published the results of his thesis as proceedings of the biannual SPIE Astronomical Instruments conference, the de-facto standard for technical work in astronomical instrumentation and published two further proceedings related to his Master of Research project. Finally, he was invited as co-author on two more papers led by international collaborators, for which he performed key data analysis tasks. His achievements far exceed the expectations placed on students undertaking the Master of Research.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Maria Pozo Montoro (graduated in absentia)

Nominated by the Department of Biological Sciences

Maria has demonstrated a sustained level of excellence throughout her academic studies, beginning with her undergraduate studies in the Bachelor of Science at Universidad de Granada, Spain, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a GPA (Grade Point Average) of 9.18 out of 10. She commenced her Master of Research at Macquarie in 2019, achieving a GPA of 6.75 out of 7 for her first year, with High Distinction grades in six units and Distinction grades in the remaining 2 units.

Maria achieved the highest grade in the Department of Biological Sciences for the year with an overall mark of 92.6% and a thesis mark of 93% in the second year of her Master of Research, noting the average mark for her cohort was 87%.

Maria produced a high-quality MRes thesis titled, 'Olfactory capabilities of sharks: An anatomical and molecular comparative approach'. Her thesis examined the olfactory organs in two shark species and quantified the surface area of the relevant sensory organs. She also determined the molecular basis of olfaction by examining the genetic sequence that code for olfactory receptors. This was a challenging project that required Maria to learn and use new molecular and microscopy techniques, which she did with remarkable efficiency. Her thesis contains the equivalent of two full data papers, currently in preparation for submission.

Annabel Webb (graduated in absentia)

Nominated by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Annabel undertook a Bachelor of Arts with the degree of Bachelor of Science at Macquarie University between 2015 and 2018, achieving mainly High Distinction grades, and only one grade that was less than Distinction level (a Credit), resulting in a final GPA (Grade Point Average) of 6.875 out of 7.0. She received a number of prizes and the Macquarie University Award for Academic Excellence for her overall undergraduate studies.

She continued to display excellent performance in the first year of her Master of Research degree, achieving a GPA of 6.875 out of 7.0, with 7 High Distinctions and 1 Distinction grade. In the second year of the Master of Research she received a final mark of 92% for her thesis, with the examiners enthusiastically commenting on the contribution and significance of her thesis findings.