**UNIVERSITY MEDALLISTS 2025**

## FACULTY OF ARTS

### SAMANTHA ROUFOGALIS

*Nominated by Macquarie Law School*

Ms Roufogalis completed her combined degree with an outstanding academic record, achieving 29 High Distinctions and 9 Distinctions and an overall Law WAM of 87.260. She was the highest-performing student in her Law graduating cohort of 268 students and was one of only two Honours students to attain an overall Law WAM above 85.

Throughout her studies, Ms Roufogalis consistently demonstrated exceptional academic excellence and was recognised with numerous prestigious awards and distinctions. These included:

- The Faculty of Arts Highest Achiever in a Unit of Study awards for LAWS109 and LAWS104 (2019).
- The John Peden Memorial Prize for Contract Law for achieving the highest grade across two offerings of LAWS1200.
- University Merit List in 2020 and 2023.
- The Faculty of Arts Highest Achiever in a Unit of Study awards for MMCC3031 (2021), LAWS2300 and MMCC3110 (2022).
- The Faculty of Arts Highest Achiever in more than one unit of study in 2024.

Ms Roufogalis's Honours thesis, "A New Pathway for Dealing with Sexual Harassment Under the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth): Will it Work?", received a mark of 92% reflecting both the quality of her scholarship and her capacity for rigorous legal research and analysis.

Her exceptional academic performance, sustained record of achievement across both disciplines, and distinguished Honours results place her among the most outstanding graduates of her cohort. Her accomplishments exemplify the highest standards of academic excellence and scholarly achievement.

### ASHLEA MOOREHEAD

*Nominated by Critical Indigenous Studies*

Ms Ashlea Moorehead demonstrated sustained academic excellence throughout her studies, achieving outstanding results across both postgraduate coursework and independent research in Indigenous Education and Critical Indigenous Studies.

She completed the Master of Indigenous Education with a Weighted Average Mark (WAM) of 82.875, reflecting a consistently high standard of academic achievement across the program. Her academic record included three High Distinctions and four Distinctions.

Ms Moorehead's achievements have been recognised through a number of prestigious awards and scholarships, including:

- The Faculty of Arts Highest Achiever Award for INED8022 Indigenous Education Capstone Research Project in 2020.
- The Indigenous Student Success Program (ISSP) Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship in 2020.
- The Indigenous Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship in 2024 and 2025.
- The Macquarie University Research Excellence Stipend Scholarship.
- The Research Training Program Tuition Fee Offset.

Ms Moorehead successfully completed the Master of Research in Critical Indigenous Studies, receiving a High Distinction (90) for her thesis, "Mapping the Past, Present and Future of Indigenous Education, Our Ways: An Exploration of Two NSW Independent Schools as Pathways to Indigenous Education Sovereignty."

Ms Moorehead ranked among the highest-performing students within her postgraduate and research cohorts. Her outstanding coursework WAM, recognition as the highest achiever in a unit of study, and excellent research thesis result distinguish her as an exceptional scholar.

**FARRAH JOY MIKHAIL**

*Nominated by Macquarie Law School*

Ms Farrah Mikhail completed the Bachelor of Applied Finance and Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and qualified on 10 July 2025. She achieved an outstanding academic record, graduating with a Law WAM of 84.75 and attaining 13 High Distinctions, 4 Distinctions and 2 Credits throughout her studies.

Ms Mikhail's academic excellence and contribution to the Macquarie Law School community have been recognised through a number of prestigious awards.

In 2023, she received the Dean's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Macquarie Law School Community in recognition of her voluntary work with the Macquarie University Law Society. In 2024, she was again awarded the Dean's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Macquarie Law School Community for her outstanding performance as a member of the Jessup International Law Moot Team. She was also awarded the John Peden Memorial Prize for Best Legal Research Project and the Faculty of Arts Highest Achiever in Unit Award for LAWS5920 in Session 2, 2024.

Her Honours thesis, "Rethinking Rules of War: Disinformation, Civilian Harms and an Evolutive Approach," received a final mark of 96.4, the highest mark awarded in the unit within a cohort of 59 Honours students. This exceptional result reflects the originality, rigour and scholarly quality of her research and demonstrates her capacity for advanced legal analysis.

Ms Mikhail's achievements place her at the very top of her graduating cohort. Her Law WAM of 84.75, calculated across her studies in both degree programs, was the highest Law WAM in the graduating cohort. The next highest Law WAM was 83.455, while the second-highest Honours thesis mark was 93, underscoring the exceptional nature of her academic performance.

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## MACQUARIE BUSINESS SCHOOL

**ETHAN KWOK**

*Nominated by the Department of Actuarial Studies and Business Analytics*

Mr Kwok demonstrated sustained and exceptional academic excellence throughout his university studies, achieving outstanding results across both coursework and independent research. He graduated with a Weighted Average Mark (WAM) of 90.647 and attained First Class Honours, reflecting a consistently exceptional standard of academic performance across his program.

His sustained academic achievement is evidenced by his inclusion on the University Merit List for four consecutive years. Throughout his studies, he received 11 prestigious awards and prizes, including the KPMG Actuaries Prize for First Year Actuarial Studies and the KPMG Actuaries Prize for Second Year Actuarial Studies. He was also recognised as the Highest Achiever in STAT2371, STAT2372, ACST2002, ACST3006, ACST3058, ACST3059, and PROF3000, demonstrating excellence across actuarial studies, statistics, and professional practice.

In 2024, Mr Kwok completed his Honours thesis, "Impact of COVID-19 on Health and Wellbeing Outcomes of Participants of the National Disability Insurance Scheme for Specific Disability Group Types." His thesis received a mark of 88, accompanied by highly positive examiner feedback.

Mr Kwok's academic performance was exceptional when considered against his peers. With a WAM of 90.647, he ranked first across all graduating cohorts, placing him among the very highest-performing students in the University. His achievement reflects a remarkable record of High Distinctions across the majority of his studies and demonstrates excellence in both coursework and research.

## FACULTY OF MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES

**TINA HUANG-SMITH**

*Nominated by the School of Psychological Sciences*

Ms Huang-Smith demonstrated exceptional academic excellence throughout her studies, achieving an outstanding record across both undergraduate and honours coursework. Her performance was characterised by sustained achievement at the highest level, culminating in her graduating as the highest-ranked student in the 2024 Honours cohort.

She achieved High Distinctions in the majority of her units, receiving Distinctions for three.

She was named on the University Merit List in every year of her studies. Her academic results were outstanding across all measures, with an overall WAM of 91.36, a 3000-level WAM of 91, and a Psychology WAM of 91, reflecting consistent excellence across her discipline.

Her achievements were recognised through several prestigious awards and prizes. In 2019, she received the Department of Psychology Prize for Design and Statistics II, recognising her outstanding performance in a core area of psychological research methodology. In 2022, she was awarded the Graduate Women NSW (North Shore Group) Prize for Psychology. She also received a Faculty of Arts High Achiever Award, further acknowledging her sustained academic distinction.

In her Honours year, Ms Huang-Smith achieved an overall Honours mark of 91.54 (unrounded), equivalent to an Honours WAM of approximately 92, placing her first in a cohort of 128 students. This exceptional result demonstrates both the breadth of her academic ability and her capacity for advanced independent scholarship.

Ms Huang-Smith's undergraduate performance was consistently outstanding and compared favourably with the strongest students in her cohort. Her record of sustained High Distinctions, repeated placement on the Merit List, academic prizes, and first-place ranking in a large and highly competitive Honours cohort distinguish her as one of the most accomplished students in her discipline.

**AIMEE CROSLAND**

*Nominated by the Department of Health Sciences*

Ms Aimee Crosland demonstrated sustained academic excellence throughout her studies at Macquarie University, achieving outstanding results across both her undergraduate and postgraduate education. Beginning her academic journey in 2018 in the Bachelor of Medical Sciences before transferring to the Bachelor of Chiropractic Science, she consistently excelled, attaining Distinctions and High Distinctions across the majority of her undergraduate units.

Ms Crosland continued this exceptional record of achievement in the Doctor of Physiotherapy (DPT), one of the University's professionally accredited health programs. Across the 23 units comprising the degree, she achieved an outstanding 17 High Distinctions and 6 Distinctions, graduating with a Weighted Average Mark of 88 and ranking first in a cohort of 77 students. Her performance was consistently exceptional throughout the program, placing her within the top three students in every semester of the degree. She achieved the highest WAM and first-ranking position in two semesters and was ranked either first, second, or third across numerous individual units.

Her academic excellence has been recognised through numerous awards and commendations. Most notably, she was selected to receive the 2025 Australian Physiotherapy Association Award for Academic Excellence in recognition of her outstanding performance across the DPT program. Throughout her studies, she also received multiple Departmental Outstanding Academic Achievement Awards, including first-place rankings in units such as PHTY8105 Physiotherapy Practice A, PHTY8202 Clinical Physiotherapy Placement II, PHTY8308 Advanced Physiotherapy Practice B, PHTY8305 Advanced Clinical Physiotherapy Placement I, PHTY8306 Research Project and Seminar, and recognition as the highest-performing student in Semester B (2023) and Semester F (2025). She additionally achieved numerous second- and third-place rankings across clinical, professional development, evidence-based practice, and foundational physiotherapy units.

Ms Crosland also demonstrated exceptional research capability. She achieved High Distinctions in both Advanced Research Training (PHTY8303) and Research Project and Seminar (PHTY8306) and was ranked

first in the cohort for research performance. Her research manuscript received a mark of 95%, reflecting an outstanding capacity for independent inquiry, critical analysis, and scholarly communication.

Ms Crosland's academic record placed her among the most distinguished graduates of her cohort, with her overall WAM of 88 giving her the first place ranking among 77 Doctor of Physiotherapy students.

**ZACHIAS HOPKINS**

*Nominated by Macquarie Medical School*

Mr Hopkins demonstrated exceptional and sustained academic excellence throughout the Doctor of Medicine (MD), distinguishing himself as the highest-performing student in his graduating cohort. Across the 20 units comprising the Macquarie MD, he achieved an outstanding Weighted Average Mark (WAM) of 86.33, the highest in the cohort, together with 8 High Distinctions and 12 Distinctions across 320 credit points.

Mr Hopkins' academic achievements are particularly notable within the demanding context of a professionally accredited medical degree. His performance consistently exceeded that of his peers, with clinical supervisors frequently commenting that his knowledge, clinical judgement, and professional capabilities were comparable to, and often exceeded, those expected of junior medical officers. His results in the latter stages of the program were especially impressive, achieving six High Distinctions across nine units in Years 3 and 4, representing 115 credit points out of 160 undertaken during this advanced clinical phase of the degree.

Research forms a significant component of the Doctor of Medicine program and is closely aligned with the development of professional capabilities in scientific inquiry and evidence-based practice. Mr Hopkins excelled in this area, achieving outstanding results across the research curriculum, including a High Distinction (95) in MEDI8203 Critical Care, Patient Safety and Quality and Research, and Distinctions in both MEDI8310 Research Project and MEDI8400 Research Project and Presentation.

In addition to his research project within the Doctor of Medicine program, Mr Hopkins demonstrated a capacity to contribute meaningfully to the medical literature. While completing the demanding requirements of the medical program, he published the article "Helicobacter pylori: Rise of the resistance" as first author with Macquarie University academics in the Australian Journal of General Practice. Achieving peer-reviewed publication during medical school represents a significant scholarly accomplishment and highlights his commitment to advancing medical knowledge through research.

Mr Hopkins' academic record placed him at the very top of the 2025 graduating Doctor of Medicine cohort. His WAM of 86.33 is the highest in the cohort and is separated by a clear margin from the next highest-performing students.

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## FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

**MITCHELL MCVEY**

*Nominated by the School of Engineering*

Mr McVey demonstrated sustained excellence throughout all years of study. He achieved an Honours WAM of 88.4 and an overall University WAM of 89.2, with particularly outstanding results in first year, including several marks in the 90s. Notably, he achieved a mark of 91 in his Honours thesis (20 credit points), reflecting his dedication, intellectual capability, and ability to excel in rigorous research.

Throughout his degree, Mr McVey achieved a majority of High Distinction results. This academic record demonstrated a consistently high level of achievement across a broad range of challenging engineering disciplines.

Mr McVey's academic performance when considered against the broader cohort was excellent. With the average WAM for students in the Mechanical Engineering program being approximately 68, his University WAM of 89.2 places him amongst the top 1% of students in the program.

The student's outstanding academic record highlights his ability to achieve sustained success, adapt to increasingly complex technical challenges, and perform at an exceptionally high standard throughout his studies. Combined with his professionalism and strong communication skills, these qualities have already secured him a prestigious permanent graduate position with a leading mechanical engineering construction company, further demonstrating his readiness to make a significant contribution to the engineering profession.

**XUEJING HUO (Graduated in Absentia)**

*Nominated by the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences*

Ms Huo completed 60 credit points at Macquarie University during Year 1 of Master of Research with an impressive WAM of 92.833 and High Distinctions in all units. Her outstanding academic performance earned her the Executive Dean's Commendation for Academic Excellence for Year 2 of the Master of Research. She also won several academic excellence awards for her previous studies, including the Hebei Province Excellent Graduate Award in 2021, the Hebei Outstanding Student Award in 2020, and the Hebei University First Prize Scholarship in 2019 and 2020.

Ms Huo completed her research project in 2023. Her thesis characterised a particularly important class of functions (a kind of Lipschitz space) and extended classical results to a broader setting involving Lie groups.

The thesis received excellent examiners' reports. One of the examiners of her thesis said, "The thesis represents a substantial contribution to her field" and goes on to emphasise her "deep understanding and innovative approach to the subject." The final mark for her thesis was 98.

Ms Huo's Master of Research Year 1 WAM of 92.833 is the highest from her cohort and significantly higher than the average, which was 88.3.

**UNIVERSITY MEDALLISTS 2025**

**MICHAEL VAN DOORENE**

*Nominated by the School of Engineering*

Mr Van Doorne completed a double degree, combining the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) with a Bachelor of Commerce. He achieved an outstanding University WAM of 90.6 and an Engineering Honours WAM of 91.2, earning First Class Honours. His consistently exceptional academic performance saw him recognised on the Macquarie University Merit List in every year from 2021 to 2025.

Throughout his studies, Mr Van Doorne received at least ten Highest Achiever Awards in Engineering, recognising the highest mark achieved in a unit, as well as an additional two Highest Achiever Awards in Bachelor of Commerce units. These awards demonstrated sustained excellence and outstanding performance across two disciplines.

Across his double degree, Mr Van Doorne completed 44 units and achieved High Distinction grades in all but five. Within the Bachelor of Engineering, all but one result was awarded at High Distinction level, with his lowest mark being 82, a Distinction. This is particularly noteworthy given the breadth and complexity of the engineering curriculum. His performance in the final year was especially distinguished, including marks of 93 in the Engineering Capstone Project and 95 in Engineering Thesis B.

The final-year thesis project is a major component of the Engineering Honours program and requires students to undertake independent research culminating in a substantial thesis report, assessed by both the supervisor and independent second assessors. Mr Van Doorne achieved a mark of 95 in MTRN4093 Engineering Thesis B, reflecting an outstanding standard of research, technical competence, critical analysis, and scholarly communication.

A comparison of Mr Van Doorne's performance against other high-achieving students completing their studies in Session 1, 2025 demonstrated that he ranked first in the graduating cohort for Engineering Thesis B, Honours WAM, and overall University WAM.

**JASMINE WILLIAMS**

*Nominated by the School of Natural Sciences*

Ms Williams demonstrated sustained academic excellence throughout her undergraduate and postgraduate studies, achieving outstanding results and receiving numerous awards and accolades in recognition of her academic achievement, research excellence, and scholarly contribution.

Ms Williams was awarded a Bachelor of Medical Sciences from Macquarie University in 2022, graduating with an impressive WAM of 87.5 and GPA of 6.8/7.0. During this degree, she achieved High Distinction grades in 18 of her 23 units, with Distinction grades in the remaining five units. Building on this strong academic foundation, she enrolled in the Bachelor of Philosophy, graduating in 2023 with High Distinctions in all eight units and an exceptional WAM of 90.75. Notably, she achieved the highest grades within the Bachelor of Philosophy cohort, demonstrating both academic excellence and consistency across advanced coursework.

Ms Williams subsequently undertook a Master of Research and was awarded the highly competitive Macquarie University Research Excellence Stipend Scholarship to support her studies. Her thesis was examined by two leading experts in the field, both of whom provided unanimous praise for the quality of her work and awarded a mark of 88%. This result exceeded the average thesis mark of 85% achieved by students within the Molecular Sciences discipline.

Beyond her academic record, Ms Williams received a number of awards. These included:

- Macquarie University Award for Academic Excellence.
- 2023 Awarded the Master of Research Year 1 Natural Sciences Prize for the highest-achieving Natural Sciences student.
- 2023 Session 2 Highest Achiever Award in Unit NSCI7926.
- 2022 Session 2 NSW-ACT Branch of the Australian Society for Microbiology Student Prize.
- Macquarie University Merit List Awards in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Ms Williams is the first author of a publication currently under review in the International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents, arising from an unplanned bioinformatics project undertaken during her Master of Research. She is also preparing a second first-author manuscript based on the laboratory research completed during the degree.

Her research findings have been disseminated through presentations at four academic conferences, including three oral presentations and one poster presentation. Significantly, she was awarded a Best Oral Presentation Prize at one conference, recognising her ability to communicate complex scientific concepts effectively to expert audiences.

Ms Willaims produced a high-quality Master of Research thesis where she investigated the consequences and mechanism of interaction between co-cultured strains of a significant pathogen. She was awarded a grade of 88.5% which was well above the average of 85% for the cohort from the discipline of Molecular Sciences who received their grades in 2022.

Mr Williams undergraduate performance was equally outstanding, achieving a GPA of 6.8/7 and 91% for the Bachelor of Philosophy where she had the highest grades in the cohort, receiving all High Distinctions.