Policy on award of Scholarships and Prizes in Physics

1.0 Approved by the APC – 4 July 2008
1.1 revision 26 March 2009
1.2 revision 4 April 2011

Undergraduate Scholarships and Prizes in the School of Physics are described at http://www.physics.usyd.edu.au/current/scholarships.shtml.
Undergraduate Scholarships and Prizes in the School of Physics are described at http://www.physics.usyd.edu.au/current/pg_scholarships.shtml

All Physics 'Prizes' can be reported as soon as they are decided. Prizes may be shared, with the values split between the recipients.

Physics 'Scholarships' are awarded to reward performance in each academic year, but also to encourage continued enrolment in Physics in the following year. Awards are therefore only made after enrolment is confirmed after the census date in the following semester (31 March and 31 August).

Scholarships are announced in April for award at the School Prizes and Awards Ceremony in May.

Prizes and Scholarships for students who have completed Junior Physics:
Prizes are recommended to the second semester Examiners Committee for discussion and approval.

- Smith Prize for Junior Experimental Physics
- Australian Sky & Telescope Prize for Astronomy

Scholarships are decided on the basis of the sum of marks from one first and one second semester Junior unit. Students from second semester in the previous year should be considered in case of mid-year entry (very rare). Students studying abroad for a semester will probably have only pass/fail from their overseas study and, providing they have a pass, should have the mark from their one local semester simply doubled.

Scholarships are awarded in the following order, starting at the top of the rank order, to students with confirmed enrolment in at least one Physics unit in the following year:

- 1 x Levey Scholarship No.1 ($825)
- 2 x School of Physics - Julius Sumner Miller Scholarships for Academic Excellence No 1 ($700)
- 5 x Science Foundation for Physics Scholarships No 1 ($700)

Prizes and Scholarships for students who have completed Intermediate Physics:
Prizes are recommended to the second semester Examiners Committee for discussion and approval.

- Slade Prize for Intermediate Physics Practicals ($350)
- Geoffrey Builder AWA Prize for proficiency in Practical Work ($250)

Scholarships are decided on the basis of the sum of the two best marks from the three Intermediate Physics units. Students from second semester in the previous year should be considered in case of mid-year entry (very rare). Students studying abroad for a semester will probably have only pass/fail from their overseas study and, providing they have a pass, should have the mark from their one local semester simply doubled.

Scholarships are awarded in the following order, starting at the top of the rank order, to students with confirmed enrolment in at least one Physics unit in the following year:

- 2 x School of Physics - Julius Sumner Miller Scholarships for Academic Excellence No 2 ($800)
• 5 x Science Foundation for Physics Scholarships No 2 ($800)

Prizes and Scholarships for students who have completed Senior Physics:
Prizes are recommended to the second semester Examiners Committee for discussion and approval.
• WIB Smith Prize for proficiency and motivation in Senior Lab ($500)

Scholarships are decided on the basis of the average mark from the student's best 24 credit points of Senior units, definitely including the EM/QM core units and may include one Senior COSC unit. Students from second semester in the previous year should be considered in case of mid-year entry (very rare). Students studying abroad for a semester will probably have only pass/fail from their overseas study and, providing they have a pass, should have only the marks from their one local semester considered.

'Named' Scholarships
School of Physics 'named' Scholarships are awarded starting at the top of the rank order, to students with confirmed enrolment in Honours in the following year:
• 1 x Deas-Thomson Scholarship for Physics ($6500)
• 1 x Walter Burfitt Scholarship no.2 ($750)
• 2 x School of Physics - Julius Sumner Miller Scholarships for Academic Excellence No 3 ($3000)
• 5 x Science Foundation for Physics Scholarships No 3 ($3000)

Rules for deciding scholarships:
  Student 1: Deas-Thomson ($6500)
  Student 2: Walter Burfitt + JSM #3 ($3750)
  Student 3: JSM #3 ($3000)
  Students 4-8: Science Foundation #3 ($3000)
If the top two students are equal, they share DT + WB + JSM ($5125 each).

An additional 'named' scholarship is the Malcolm Turki Scholarship ($1700), offered on the basis of merit and demonstrated financial need, based on an application. This scholarship may be shared.

Honours Scholarships
In addition, the School of Physics offers Physics Honours Scholarships ($3000 per year) to students outside the first 8 in the rankings, but with an average 3rd year Physics mark of 75 or more (i.e. Distinction level) in the student's best 24 credit points of Senior units, definitely including the EM/QM core units and may include one Senior COSC unit [this defined standard makes it easier to advertise students]. Students entering Honours in mid-year are eligible for Physics Honours Scholarships decided at the time of enrolment.

Students who hold a University Outstanding Achievement scholarship ($10000 per year), University Merit scholarships ($5000 per year) or a University Honours scholarship ($5000 for one year):
• MAY also hold School of Physics 'named' Scholarship
• MAY NOT also hold School of Physics Honours scholarships.

Holders of scholarships addressing disadvantage due to finance, disability, etc. may hold either type of School of Physics scholarship. These scholarships include University Access scholarships ($5000 per year), Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships ($2120 per year), Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships ($4240 per year) and the Malcolm Turki scholarship ($1700).

[Note that there is a possible issue about students receiving a University Honours scholarship who may not "already hold a scholarship of equal or higher value". The Deas-Thompson Prize is the only Physics prize of greater value but we interpret this as being awarded after any University Honours scholarship is awarded (in February after enrolment).]
Students newly commencing in the School from interstate or outside the Sydney metropolitan area will be reimbursed (up to a limit of $2000) for approved relocation expenses, whether or not they receive an Honours scholarship.

**Prizes for students who have completed Honours Physics:**
Prizes are recommended to the Honours Examiners Committee for discussion and approval.

- **Shiroki Prize** for best honours project ($750) - to the student who submits the best Honours project in the Honours year provided the candidate's work is of sufficient merit. May be the same person as the AIP Prize.
- **Australian Institute of Physics Prize** ($400) - to the student graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Science with Honours in Physics who shows greatest proficiency provided that the student's work is of sufficient merit. May be the same person as the Shiroki Prize.
- **Henry Chamberlain Russell Prize for Astronomy** ($1400) – decided by SIfA senior staff for the best Honours thesis on an astronomical subject. This prize may be shared.

**Prizes for Postgraduate students:**

- **Canon Information Systems Research Australia (CISRA) Prize** ($2000, established 2006) – to the postgraduate research student who produces the best refereed publication accepted in a leading international journal in the previous calendar year. The paper must be a result of the student's current postgraduate studies. If not yet published, the acceptance letter must also be submitted. The student may be a co-author but must be first author, and the prize may be shared where two or more students are joint (first and second) authors. They prize may also be shared between authors of two equally-ranked papers. One prize (may be shared) will be awarded annually on the recommendation of the Head of School of Physics, to a student enrolled in a Master of Science (research), Master of Medical Physics, or a Doctor of Philosophy degree, or who have completed such a degree in the previous calendar year.

  Research groups to nominate one postgraduate student (or 2 if co-authors) by submitting the publication and letter of support.

- **School of Physics Postgraduate Alumni Prize** ($1000, established 2007 by the PhysicsAlumni [USA]) - to the student who is judged to have completed the most outstanding PhD thesis in the School of Physics at The University of Sydney, whose degree has been awarded but not necessarily conferred in the previous calendar year. No candidate may be nominated more than once.

  Only one prize shall be awarded, but may be shared where two PhD theses are considered of equal merit. If the selection committee considers that none of the theses nominated is of an appropriate standard, no award will be made.

  Research groups to nominate one PhD thesis by submitting a one-page description of the significance and quality of the work in the thesis; the examination reports; and a copy of the thesis with evidence of the confirmation of PhD award. Supporting documentation such as student prizes or awards during the period of PhD candidature may also be included.

  The Physics Postgraduate Alumni Prize Selection Committee will be appointed by the Head of School, and will determine the award recipient. In making its decision the Committee will take into account: the overall quality and significance of the work; the level of originality or creativity exhibited; and the intrinsic difficulty of the project. The Committee will be mindful of the need to retain a balance between experimental and theoretical theses.

  *It is anticipated that the School of Physics Postgraduate Alumni Prize winner will become the School’s nominee for the Bragg Medal.*
Faculty of Science Postgraduate Research Prizes for Outstanding Academic Achievement ($500, established 2007 by the Physics Alumni [USA]) - to recognise outstanding postgraduate student achievements, particularly during the early phases of candidature.

The criteria for these prizes are the significance and quality of a manuscript which has been accepted for publication, and the role the student played in the research project.

The Dean will ask for one nomination from the Head of each of the seven Schools within the Faculty of Science. In even-numbered years, a nomination will be sought from the Director of the History & Philosophy of Science Unit and in odd-numbered years a nomination will be sought from the Director of the Australian Centre for Microscopy & Microanalysis (ACMM).

Supervisors to nominate a postgraduate student by submitting a one-page description of the significance and quality of the work in the publication and the role the student placed in the research project; and a copy of the publication with evidence of the acceptance date.

Nominees must:

1. be within 38 months from the commencement of candidature in their postgraduate research studies as a Doctor of Philosophy or research Master of Science degree in the Faculty of Science; and

2. be a senior author of a significant, high-quality publication that was submitted for publication not less than 6 months from commencing candidature, and was accepted for publication within 36 months of commencing candidature.

The commencement date of candidature will be taken as the enrolment date in the postgraduate research degree, as shown on the student’s internal transcript.