



Student Awards Ceremony

2024 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

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Acknowledgement of Country

With respect for Aboriginal cultural protocol and out of recognition that its campuses occupy their traditional lands. Western Sydney University acknowledges the Darug, Eora, Dharawal (also referred to as Tharawal) and Wiradjuri peoples and thanks them for their support of its work in their lands (Greater Western Sydney and beyond).

Message from the Executive Director, Advancement



At Western Sydney University, student success is at the heart of everything we do. The Student Awards Ceremony are a chance to celebrate the hard work, dedication, and achievements of our hardworking and ambitious students – recognising not just academic excellence, but also the passion and perseverance that will shape their and our collective futures.

These awards would not be possible without the generosity of our donors. By funding prizes and academic awards, donors play a vital role in encouraging students to aim high, supporting their aspirations, and giving them an edge as they step into the workforce. To our donors—thank you for believing in our students and helping them reach their full potential.

The Western Sydney region continues to grow and evolve, so do the opportunities for our students. The University is focused on preparing graduates who are adaptable, innovative, and ready to make an impact. These awards help ensure our students have the recognition, motivation, and confidence to take on the challenges ahead.

To our award recipients – congratulations! We are proud of all that you have achieved and can't wait to see where your journey takes you next.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CBurden'.

Christian Burden
Executive Director, Advancement
Western Sydney University



Felicity Roy Memorial Prize



Donor	<p>Barry & Rae Roy</p> <p>This Prize is donated in memory of our daughter, Felicity who studied Social Sciences at Western Sydney University. Even as a small child Felicity was passionate about equal rights and justice for all: be it the elderly, migrants, those with disabilities, and in later years those with mental wellbeing concerns and inmates of prisons and detention centres. She saw education as a conduit for support, change and bringing greater awareness within society to these areas.</p> <p>Felicity was not able to fulfil her dream of positively contributing to these often-marginalised groups and so through this Prize it is our wish to encourage others to do so.</p> <p>We congratulate the recipient of the Felicity Roy Memorial Prize and hope that this recognition not only encourages you in your academic achievements but also alights a passion in you to make a significant contribution in this field through practice, research, change and/or advocacy.</p>
Prize	Felicity Roy Memorial Prize
Criteria	Awarded to an outstanding female refugee student studying in the 2nd year of an undergraduate psychology degree.
Recipient	Dima Salloum

Mind Connections Prize for Clinical Psychology



Donor	<p>Mind Connections Foundation</p> <p>Established in August 2020, the Mind Connections Foundation is dedicated to enhancing community mental health and well-being through awareness programs and research initiatives. Our mission drives a year-round commitment to promoting mental health, supported by generous donations, partnerships, and sponsorships.</p> <p>As a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and holding Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, the Foundation focuses on reducing barriers to accessing mental health services. The specific initiatives include annual events such as 'Pawsitive Steps' event, Women's Wellness Retreat, Connect2Life Mental Health Education Programs, International Women's Day Celebrations, and International Men's Day celebrations. In addition, the Foundation conducts weekly community forums and programs through the Women's Shed Hills Shire. The Foundation has effectively reached and supported a diverse and broad audience through the year-round activities. We address critical gaps in mental health awareness, targeting marginalized populations and combating social isolation.</p> <p>These achievements reflect an unwavering commitment to community capacity-building and bring immense satisfaction to the Director Board. Mind Connections Foundation is excited to support and recognize academic excellence in the Psychology Department at Western Sydney University.</p> <p>mindconnectionsfoundation.com.au</p>
Prize	Mind Connections Prize for Clinical Psychology
Criteria	Awarded to the top performing students in the 4th year research thesis subject topic for the different themes of Challenge Minds, Connect Minds, Improve Mindset, Support Growing Minds".
Recipients	Isabella Velo Kendra Haynes Jessica Ayyoub Brayden Condie

Professor Rick Richardson Prize for Psychology

Donor	<p>Professor Rick Richardson</p> <p>Rick Richardson is a Professor of Psychology, and has established these prizes to recognise outstanding academic performance by students studying psychology. In particular, as an encouragement to those who are either the first in their family to attend University and or have overcome significant challenges or disadvantage on their journey to higher education.</p> <p>richardsonlab.com.au</p>
Prize	Professor Rick Richardson Prize for Psychology - Honours Year
Criteria	Awarded to an outstanding student enrolled in the honours year of an undergraduate psychology degree.
Recipients	Jessica Bui Anamaria Buncuga
Prize	Professor Rick Richardson Prize for Psychology - Year 2
Criteria	Awarded to an outstanding student enrolled in the second year of an undergraduate psychology degree.
Recipient	Francesca Zappia
Prize	Professor Rick Richardson Prize for Psychology - Year 3
Criteria	Awarded to an outstanding student enrolled in the third year of an undergraduate psychology degree.
Recipient	Leanne Ho





GIVING TO WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

Western Sydney University changes lives and shapes the social, economic, environmental and educational development of the region in which we live, and the world.

You are part of this journey.

The gift of knowledge empowers our students to embrace opportunity, growth and change. Your support of Western Sydney University students through awards, scholarships and research encourages them to strive for excellence and reach their potential.

For information on how you can support Western Sydney University and our students, please contact the Office of Advancement.

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