

**UNSW School of Optometry & Vision Science Annual Prizegiving
24 March 2026**

The Stage 1 Optics Prize

The Stage 1 Optics Prize for the best performance in VISN1111 Geometrical and Physical Optics and VISN1221 Visual Optics

The prize winner is: **Jie-Ning Chang**

Prize Donor: Essilor Australia Pty Limited

The Stage 2 Clinical Optometry Prize

The Stage 2 Clinical Optometry Prize for the best performance in OPTM2133 The Clinical Environment and OPTM2233 Optical Dispensing

The prize winner is: **Kelly Zhang**

Prize Donor: BOC Ophthalmic Instruments Pty Ltd

The Stage 3 Ocular Diseases Prize

The Stage 3 Ocular Diseases Prize for the best performance in OPTM3105 Disease Processes of the Eye 1 and OPTM3205 Disease Processes of the Eye 2

The prize winners are: **Ruth Chen and Zachariah Beydoun (shared prize)**

Prize Donor: Essilor Australia Pty Limited

The Stage 3 Environmental Optometry and Dispensing Prize

The Stage 3 Environmental Optometry and Dispensing Prize for the best performance in Stage 3 Environmental Optometry and Dispensing

The prize winner is: **Ruth Chen**

Prize Donor: UVEX Safety, Australia Pty Ltd

The ParagonCare Vision Prize for the best overall performance in OPTM3201, OPTM3133 and OPTM3233 for excellence in applied vision science practice.

The prize winner is: **Ruth Chen**

Prize Donor: ParagonCare Vision

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The CooperVision Prize in Contact Lenses

The CooperVision Prize in Contact Lenses for the best performance in OPTM6411 Contact Lenses in Stage 1 of the Master of Clinical Optometry program

The prize winner is: **Kelvin Huang**

Prize Donor: CooperVision

The Optometry NSW/ACT Prize in Ocular Therapeutics

The Optometry NSW/ACT Prize in Ocular Therapeutics for the best performance in OPTM6413 Anterior Eye Therapeutics and OPTM6243 Therapeutics and the Posterior Eye in Stage 1 of the Master of Clinical Optometry

The prize winner is: **Kelvin Huang**

Prize Donor: Optometry NSW/ACT

The Dr Andrew Whatham Prize for Stage 5 CFEH Clinical Excellence

The Dr Andrew Whatham Prize for Stage 5 CFEH Clinical Excellence for the best performance in the Centre for Eye Health (CFEH) Stage 5 Clinical Rotation (Master of Clinical Optometry Stage 2)

The prize winner is: **Brendon Yue**

Prize Donor: Centre for Eye Health/Guide Dogs NSW/ACT

The Research Project Prize in the Master of Clinical Optometry

The Research Project Prize in the Master of Clinical Optometry for the best overall mark in the research project in the final year of the Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Clinical Optometry program

The prize winners are: **Rita Bayadh, Merna Matti and Rebekah Nehme (shared prize)**

Prize Donor: Optometric Vision Research Foundation

The Luxottica Prize for Clinical Ocular Therapeutics

The Luxottica Prize for the best performance in OPTM8513 Clinical Ocular Therapy 5A and OPTM8523 Clinical Ocular Therapy 5B (Master of Clinical Optometry Stage 2)

The prize winner is: **Angela Aaraj**

Prize Donor: Luxottica

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The Mivision Prize in Recognition of Excellence in Social Engagement

The Mivision Prize in Recognition of Excellence in Social Engagement to recognise students that have demonstrated excellence in communication, advocacy or in promoting eyecare to the community or other professions

The prize winner is: **Angela Aaraj**

Prize Donor: Toma Publishing Pty Ltd

The Specsavers Prize for Excellence in Patient Management

The Specsavers Prize for Excellence in Patient Management by a student in the final year of the Bachelor of Vision Science, Master of Clinical Optometry Program

The prize winner is: **Emily Field**

Prize Donor: Specsavers Pty Ltd

The SOVS Dry Eye Clinical Care Prize

The SOVS Dry Eye Clinical Care Prize for the best performance in the clinical care of dry eye patients within OPTM8513 and OPTM853 Clinical Ocular Therapy 5A and 5B.

The prize winner is: **Emily Field**

Prize Donor: UNSW School of Optometry & Vision Science

The ODMA Richard Grills Low Vision Prize

The ODMA Richard Grills Low Vision Prize for the best performance in the Low Vision strand in OPTM6421 Binocular Vision, Paediatrics and the Low Vision strand in OPTM8511 Clinical Paediatrics, Low Vision and Colour Vision

The prize winner is: **Timothy Choong**

Prize Donor: Optical Distributors and Manufacturers Association of Australia (ODMA)

The SOVS Myopia Control Clinical Care Prize

The SOVS Myopia Control Clinic Care Prize for the best performance in the clinical care of myopia control patients within OPTM8511 Clinical Paediatrics, Low Vision and Colour Vision.

The prize winner is: **Kate Nguyen**

Prize Donor: UNSW School of Optometry & Vision Science

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The Brian Kirby Prize for Research Excellence in Optometry

The Brian Kirby Prize for Research Excellence in Optometry for the Doctoral student in Optometry with the best thesis

The prize winner is: **Dr Shyam Mishra Baishnab**

Prize Donor: The Brian Kirby Foundation

The Guide Dogs NSW/ACT Prize for Excellence in Orientation and Mobility

The Guide Dogs NSW/ACT Prize for Excellence in Orientation and Mobility for the best performance in the Graduate Diploma in Orientation and Mobility program (5420)

The prize winner is: **Emma-Jay Campbell**

Prize Donor: Guide Dogs NSW/ACT

The Australian College of Optometry (ACO) Award

The Australian College of Optometry (ACO) Award for outstanding efforts and to acknowledge the importance of commitment to the profession

The prize winner is: **Catherine Bui**

Prize Donor: Australian College of Optometry

The ACBO Prize in Binocular and Children's Vision

The ACBO Prize in Binocular and Children's Vision for the best overall performance throughout the Master of Clinical Optometry program in Binocular and Children's Vision

and **The SOVS Paediatric Clinical Care Prize**

The prize winner is: **Josie Wehbe**

Prize Donors: Australasian College of Behavioural Optometrists (ACBO) and UNSW School of Optometry & Vision Science

The Specsavers Prize for Overall Excellence in the Bachelor of Vision Science Master of Clinical Optometry Program

The Specsavers Prize for Overall Excellence in the Bachelor of Vision Science Master of Clinical Optometry Program for the best overall weighted average mark (WAM) in the Bachelor of Vision Science, Master of Clinical Optometry program

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The prize winner is: **Josie Wehbe**

Prize Donor: Specsavers Pty Ltd

University Medal Award Winner: Josie Wehbe
