



Press release

Abolins awarded SPIE Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA – 14 May 2020 – **Haralds Abolins** has been awarded a 2020 Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, for his potential contributions to the field of optics, photonics or related field.



Abolins is a PhD candidate in physics working in the Optoelectronics Group at the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) under the supervision of Dr. Felix Deschler and Prof. Sir Richard Friend. His work is on developing new device designs to study the photophysics of metal-halide perovskites. “Arguably the most promising class of materials for the next generation of high-efficiency solar cells,” said Abolins. He is also an active member of the University of Cambridge SPIE student chapter, currently as Project Manager, and as Vice-President and President in previous years.

In 2020, the Society is awarding \$298,000 in education scholarships to 78 outstanding SPIE student members, based on their potential contribution to optics and photonics, or a related discipline. Award-winning applicants were evaluated, selected and approved by the SPIE Scholarship Committee, Chaired by SPIE volunteer Kate Medicus.

Through 2019, SPIE has distributed over \$6 million dollars in individual scholarships. This ambitious effort reflects the Society's commitment to education and to the next generation of optical scientists and engineers around the world.

To view other 2020 press releases as they become available go to the [2020 Scholarship Winners page](#) or learn more about [SPIE scholarships](#) on [spie.org](#).

SPIE is the international society for optics and photonics, an educational not-for-profit organization founded in 1955 to advance light-based science, engineering, and technology. The Society serves more than 255,000 constituents from 183 countries, offering conferences and their published proceedings, continuing education, books, journals, and the SPIE Digital Library. In 2019, SPIE provided more than \$5.6 million in community support including scholarships and awards, outreach and advocacy programs, travel grants, public policy, and educational resources. www.spie.org

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