



Press release  
5 June 2023

## Perumal awarded SPIE Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA — **Leerin Michaela Perumal** has been awarded a 2023 Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, for potential contributions to the field of optics, photonics, or related field.



Perumal is a master's student at the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) working under the guidance of Professor Andrew Forbes. "My research focuses on developing optics to structure X-ray waves for enhanced imaging and detection," said Perumal. "Due to their high energies and poor coherence, X-rays are difficult to manipulate, making them costly and inefficient for use in fields such as mining and medicine. I believe that my research will provide a meaningful contribution as it aims to significantly improve the efficiency and resolution of pre-existing X-ray imaging systems paving the way for groundbreaking research."

In 2023, the Society is awarding \$293,000 in education scholarships to 72 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 Senior Member Brian Primeau.

Since the program began, SPIE has distributed more than \$7 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 2023 scholarship press releases as they become available, please visit the [2023 Scholarship Winners page](#) or learn more about [SPIE scholarships](#) on [spie.org](http://spie.org).

SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, brings engineers, scientists, students, and business professionals together to advance light-based science and technology. The Society, founded in 1955, connects and engages with our global constituency through industry-leading conferences and exhibitions; publications of conference proceedings, books, and journals in the SPIE Digital Library; and career-building opportunities. Over the past five years, SPIE has contributed more than \$22 million to the international optics community through our advocacy and support, including scholarships, educational resources, travel grants, endowed gifts, and public-policy development. [www.spie.org](http://www.spie.org).

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