



Press release  
24 May 2024

## Caitlin Smith awarded an SPIE Optics and Photonics Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA — **Caitlin Smith** has been awarded a 2024 Optics and Photonics Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, for potential contributions to optics, photonics, or a related field.



Smith is a PhD student at the University of Auckland in the Department of Physics, under the supervision of **Jami Shepherd**, **Guillaume Renaud** (TU Delft) and **Kaspervan Wijk**. Her work in the Physical Acoustics Laboratory focuses on developing photoacoustic and ultrasound techniques to quantify and study hemodynamics in bone. She is also the 2024 President of the university's SPIE student chapter and is actively involved in outreach and student engagement with the Dodd-Walls Centre for Photonics and Quantum Technologies. "My passion for research is motivated by its potential for real-world applications to improve patient outcomes," said Smith.

This month, the Society is awarding \$303,000 in scholarships to 72 outstanding SPIE Student Members, based on their potential contribution to optics and photonics, or a related discipline. Successful applicants were evaluated, selected, and approved by the SPIE Scholarship Committee, chaired by **SPIE Senior Member Brian Primeau**.

Since this program began in 1978, SPIE has distributed more than \$7.5 million dollars in individual scholarships. This ambitious effort reflects the Society's commitment to education as well as to the future generations of optical scientists and engineers around the world.

To view other 2024 scholarship press releases as they become available, please visit the [2024 Scholarship Recipients 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 \$24 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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