The William Culross Prize for Scientific Research

Gertrude Culross (‘donor’) died on 20 March 1952 and under the terms of her Will dated 18 June 1928 and codicils thereto dated 15 February 1938 and 7 December 1945 bequeathed a pecuniary legacy of £250 to the University of Adelaide (‘bequest’) to be administered in the following manner:

‘I GIVE AND BEQUEATH to the UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE the sum of TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY POUNDS to be paid to the Registrar or Treasurer of the said University whose receipt shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors and I direct that the Governing body of the said University shall hold the said legacy IN TRUST to invest the same in any of the investments authorised under the Statutes of the said University and to apply the income resulting therefrom in the provision of a special prize to be given annually to the student at the said University who shall in the opinion of the said Governing Body or the Examiner for the said University duly appointed by the said Governing Body have most greatly distinguished himself in such year in scientific research such prize to be known as “The William Culross Prize for scientific research”.

Over the years the prize, though of small monetary value, acquired high prestige, and in 1971 the Research and Publications Committee decided to supplement the income from the bequest to the extent necessary to provide three prizes, each of the value of $100 a year. The rules were amended in 2014 to increase the value of the prize to $200 and to award it to a Doctoral Medal winner in one of the relevant fields of study.

The following rules now govern the awards:

1. Each prize shall be called ‘A William Culross Prize for Scientific Research’.

2. The value of each prize shall be $200 and shall be paid to the prize-winner in one sum.

3. One prize shall be available each year to a Doctoral Medal winner in one of the following fields of science within the University:
   - Group I: The biological sciences
   - Group II: The mathematical and physical sciences and engineering
   - Group III: The sciences studied at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute

4. To be eligible for consideration for a prize a candidate must:
   (a) have been registered as a full-time candidate for a higher degree in science or engineering in the University of Adelaide for at least one year; and
   (b) have submitted his thesis for such higher degree during the calendar year of competition.

5. Subject to rule 6 a prize shall be awarded to the candidate deemed, by reason of the thesis submitted, to have most distinguished himself in that year in scientific research in the relevant group as listed in rule 3. Awards shall be made by the Council on the advice of the Research Education and Development Committee.
6. If in any year no candidate in any group is considered by the Research Education and Development Committee to be of sufficient merit the prize for that group shall lapse for that year.

Rules approved and updated 11 June 2014