



2025 Student Published Research Prize

Guidelines

The Student Published Research Prize is awarded annually for outstanding pieces of writing published by students of Melbourne Law School, The University of Melbourne. There are three categories: one prize of \$500 is available for award to a student who is currently enrolled in or has just completed a Melbourne Law Masters degree, and one prize of \$500 is available to a student who is enrolled in or recently completed a Graduate Research Degree in law (PhD or MPhil). In addition, the Professor Colin Howard Memorial Prize of \$1,000 is available for award to a student who is currently enrolled in or has just completed the JD.

Please note: Entries must be received by Friday 20 February 2026
Exceptions will not be made to the submission date

Criteria for Eligibility

Publication

1. The work may be an article, case note, book review or comment in a journal, a book chapter, or a monograph.
2. Journals must be recognised as circulating in Australia or internationally. If the work is a book chapter or a monograph, it must bear the imprint of a commercial publisher (i.e. ISBN). The Chair of the Prize Committee shall be the sole judge of whether the publisher or journal meets these criteria.
3. Publications appearing solely in electronic form in an independently refereed electronic journal are eligible for the Prize.
4. Applicants may submit only one piece of work for consideration for the prize in any calendar year. Where the student has published more than one piece of work in the publication period, they may submit a list of all published works along with their entry.
5. To be eligible for the Prize, the work must be either published or accepted for publication during the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. (If an accepted article is still going through the relevant journal's copy-editing process, it is usually better to wait and submit the copy edited version the following year after it has been professionally copy edited in order to enhance chances of success. The piece may only be entered into the prize once.)
6. The applicant must affiliate the research with the University of Melbourne by identifying themselves in a footnote as being a student at Melbourne Law School and identifying the work as having been completed as part of a program of study undertaken within the Law School (e.g. *'An earlier draft of this article was submitted as part of coursework undertaken for the JD at Melbourne Law School, The University of Melbourne'*).

Applicant

1. An applicant must be the author or a co-author of the work submitted.
2. Work that is co-authored with a full-time or part-time academic (other than a casual staff member) at any higher education institution is ineligible for consideration.
3. Where the work was co-authored by more than one eligible student, it will be deemed to have been submitted jointly by each student. If the work is awarded the Student Published Research Prize, the Prize will be deemed to have been awarded to those students jointly (with the amount reduced accordingly)
4. The applicant must have been either a JD, Melbourne Law Masters or Graduate Research Degree student at Melbourne Law School at the time the work was written. The applicant must also have completed the work as part of their Melbourne Law School degree.
5. Students who were full-time or part-time academics (other than casual staff members) at any higher education institution at the time of writing the work, or who have held a full-time academic position or positions for more than a total of two years, are ineligible to apply for the Prize.
6. Students who already hold a doctoral degree in law are ineligible to apply for the Prize.

Submission Procedures

1. The closing date for applications for the 2025 Prize is **Friday 20 February 2025**.
2. Applications must be made on the prescribed online application form and accompanied by the necessary evidence as detailed on the online application form, link available on the Student Published Research Prize web page, Melbourne Law School.
3. Where the article has been accepted for publication prior to 31 December 2025 but has not yet appeared in print, it must be accompanied by a copy of a letter of acceptance for publication from the publisher or the editor, dated on or before 31 December 2025.
4. A soft copy of the published version of the work must be uploaded in the online application form to the Office for Research (Law) by the closing date, accompanied by the verification evidence as outlined on the online application form. Where the work has not been published before the closing date for applications, the applicant may submit the version accepted for publication but will be required to submit the published version when this becomes available.

Judging Process

1. The Chair of the Student Published Research Prize Committee will be the Associate Dean (Research) or their nominee.
2. The Chair will have the discretion to remove from consideration entries that do not reach a sufficiently high scholarly standard. The Chair will distribute the remaining publications to academics (Assessors) who have not been involved in the development of the publication (e.g. as a teacher or supervisor). Members of the Research Committee will usually be expected to participate in this process.
3. Entries from JD, Melbourne Law Masters and Graduate Research Degree students will be treated as entries for the three separate categories of the Prize, and will thus be judged in three distinct groups.

4. The Assessors will be asked to read publications from within a prize grouping (usually no more than 5 or 6 entries), to rank them and to judge the overall merit of publications.
5. In cases where one Assessor judges an entire category, if s/he is unable to identify a clear winner, the Chair of the Committee may decide the outcome, either by judging the competing entries or by referring them to an academic with relevant expertise.
6. Where more than one Assessor judges a category, the entries will be divided between them. The top-ranked publication for each Assessor that has been determined to be of sufficient merit to warrant being awarded the prize will then be distributed to all Assessors for that category. Assessors will be asked to rank these publications and may communicate with one another in doing so. If a majority of the Assessors nominate the same publication, then that publication will be awarded the prize for that category. In the absence of a majority opinion, the Chair of the Committee may decide the outcome in consultation with the relevant Assessors, or by referring competitive entries to an academic with relevant expertise. A meeting of the Assessors in a particular category may be called if the Chair believes that this is warranted.
7. In assessing the work, Assessors will be guided by criteria including:
 - How significant is the subject of the work?
 - How original is the work - to what extent does it advance existing knowledge?
 - Does the work do more than synthesise previous scholarship?
 - Does the work clearly develop a central argument and support this with persuasive evidence?
 - Is the research methodology adopted suitable and sufficient?
 - Is the work well organised and clearly expressed?
 - Does the work communicate its central argument effectively to its intended audience, whether specialist or non-specialist, or both. The Assessors may prefer a work that communicates effectively to a non-specialist, as well as a specialist readership?
8. The Chair will recommend to the Dean the award of each Prize to the selected applicants. In exceptional circumstances, the recommendation may be that each Prize be shared among two or more applicants. The Committee may also decide, in exceptional circumstances, that no work merits award in a Prize category for that year.
9. All applicants, including the Prize winner(s), will be notified of the outcome of the judging, once the process is complete.
10. The Chair of the Committee for that year shall be the final arbiter of the interpretation and application of all the guidelines and criteria referred to above.

Publicity

1. The Prize will be advertised to all Melbourne Law School students well before the due date for submission of entries.
2. The winners will be announced publicly at the Law School's annual Award Ceremony in 2026 and noted on the MLS website.