

The Catherine Buchanan SCHOLARSHIPS



QUEEN'S
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SCHOOL OF
MATHEMATICS
AND PHYSICS



These Scholarships were established in 2019 in memory of Catherine Buchanan to **both inspire and support female physics students** in the School of Mathematics and Physics. The Scholarships aim to advance the representation of women in science and enable progression to either MSci or PhD Physics.

In her short life Catherine, a student of Strathearn School in Belfast, was excelling at her A-level studies, and was focussed on a career as a scientist, specifically in physics and astronomy, having been inspired by a few days spent at Armagh Observatory. Just as she had finished off her university application, Catherine developed a very rare and aggressive form of blood cancer. Catherine passed away on September 21, 2013, one week after her diagnosis, with her family by her side.

Catherine had a tremendous passion for science and wanted to make a difference in life. She was an outstanding individual just setting out in the world, and it is fitting that this scholarship has been established in her memory to encourage other young women to fulfil their potential and to pursue studies in physics and astronomy.

A degree in physics requires a huge amount of hard work and perseverance to complete. The award aims to relieve the financial pressure that some female students have, and thereby encourage them to pursue their studies. It also aims to reward those female students who, despite financial pressure, are able to excel in their studies.

Three scholarships of £2,000 will be awarded to the top ranked full-time BSc / MSci (female) Physics students in each stage 1, 2 and 3.

Through this partnership with Mr and Mrs Buchanan, we are honoured to be able to offer these scholarships and assist with the advancement of females within Physics.



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Juno Champion

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RECIPIENTS AND TESTIMONIALS

2019/20

Alicia Kerr
Lindsey Lynch
Sarah Gregg

2018/19

Sarah Gregg
Lindsey Lynch
Lydia Gardner

To have been awarded this scholarship in Catherine Buchanan's name again is so humbling, and I feel incredibly blessed. Staying motivated through the online exams and virtual classes necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic was exhausting but the kindness of the Buchanan family kept me focussed; I reminded myself of how lucky I am to be in full-time education, learning about the subject that Catherine had so much love for, and what a joy it is to be learning things about our universe that no-one had a clue about 20 or 30 years ago. It is an amazing privilege to have received this scholarship and as is its intention, it has been a huge encouragement to me, a woman in a male-dominated STEM subject.

The award in Catherine's memory has inspired me to put my best work into every experiment I carry out, report I write and exam I sit. Because of the Buchanan's generosity, I was able to buy myself a MacBook, which was a God-send when I no longer had access to the library or university campus throughout the lockdowns resulting from the pandemic. This made studying, communication and research infinitely easier; I know I would have struggled hopelessly without it! A huge, heartfelt thank you to Richard and Julie Buchanan for making this possible. All my love to you and your family, and I hope that I can do Catherine's memory proud throughout the rest of my studies.

Lindsey Lynch



I feel very blessed and honoured to have been awarded the Catherine Buchanan Scholarship in 2019 and 2020. This award has had a great impact on my confidence and motivation throughout the

final two years of my undergraduate degree. It has inspired me to work towards my academic goals and having completed my degree, I now plan to pursue a PhD in quantum physics. Furthermore, this generous investment has been a massive relief from the financial pressures of university. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Richard and Julie Buchanan for their incredible generosity, which has left a lasting impression on my career.

Sarah Gregg

Being in a woman in STEM brings unique challenges not faced by men in the field. Throughout my life I have always been interested in physics and studying it further. This past year has been particularly difficult for me, and this scholarship has allowed me to afford to spend my time focussing on studies and my own health. Thanks to this I have been able to continue to achieve my academic goals and prepare for the rest of my degree life. I am very grateful to the Buchanan family and their generous donation that has helped me tremendously.

Alicia Kerr



I am honoured to have received one of the first Catherine Buchanan Scholarships, and I am deeply appreciative of the support which it provided in my final year of study.

Throughout my degree I had to balance my studies with working part time to support myself financially. This Scholarship helped to reduce the financial pressure during my final year, allowing me to work fewer hours and focus on my studies, which was a significant help during such an important time in my education. Being awarded this Scholarship also encouraged me to pursue further study and research after completing my undergraduate studies.

I have always been passionate about applying physics to medicine, in particular to cancer research, and I am looking forward to starting a PhD later this year where I will be focusing on radiation therapy research. I would like to thank Richard and Julie Buchanan for their thoughtful and generous support, which has helped me reach my academic goals.

Lydia Gardner