

BLUES ²⁰
AWARDS ²⁴

**2024 BLUES
AWARD WINNERS
ARTS AND CULTURAL**

Aisha O'Malley

Faculty of Arts, Business School

Aisha was the 3rd best speaker at the Officers Cup, with her team advancing to the elimination rounds ranked 3rd. She was also the best New Zealand speaker at the 2024 World Universities Debating Championships, and served as Deputy Chief Adjudicator at the Australasian Women + Gender Minorities Championship.

Andrew David Brunt

Business School, Faculty of Law

Andrew represented the University of Auckland at the ADC-ICC Asia Pacific Commercial Mediation Competition, where his team placed 2nd among over 30 teams from around the world. This impressive result continues the University of Auckland's tradition of excellence on the international stage in legal mediation.

Charles Delahunt Matthews

Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law

Charles excelled at the 2024 Transatlantic Negotiation Competition, where his team demonstrated outstanding cross-cultural negotiation skills, navigating complex commercial and geopolitical disputes. His performance was instrumental in their success at the largest-ever competition, featuring 28 teams from global universities.

Daniel Minh Kit Tran

Business School, Faculty of Law

Daniel excelled at the 2024 Transatlantic Negotiation Competition, where his team demonstrated outstanding cross-cultural negotiation skills, navigating complex commercial and geopolitical disputes. His performance was instrumental in their success at the largest-ever competition, featuring 28 teams from global universities.

Esther Oh

Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries, Faculty of Law

Esther was selected as New Zealand's representative at the 2024 Pacific Alliance of Music Schools in Thailand, where they performed with the Thailand Philharmonic. They successfully auditioned as Concertmaster of the NZSO Youth Orchestra and were awarded prestigious NZSO masterclasses with world-class artists.

Gabriel Luis Gerente

Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law

Gabriel represented New Zealand in London as a member of Shakespeare Globe Centre NZ's Young Shakespeare Company 2024. Selected from nearly 4,000 students, he performed *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Globe Theatre after two weeks of intensive training with Globe Theatre professionals, showcasing his exceptional talent on the international stage.

Grace Baylis

Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law

Grace was a Grand Finalist at both the Officers Cup and the New Zealand British Parliamentary Championships, and was named Best Speaker of the Joynt Scroll. She also became the first Māori person to achieve each of these milestones, including being appointed Chief Adjudicator of Australs.

Harper Smith

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

Harper won the 123rd edition of the Joynt Scroll, ranking as the 2nd= best speaker. She was a quarter-finalist at the Australasian Women and Gender Minorities Championship, achieving the highest Auckland speaker ranking since 2014. Harper also reached the elimination rounds of Officers Cup.

Harry Aickin

Faculty of Law, Faculty of Science

Harry was the runner-up at the 2023 New Zealand Universities' Impromptu Debating Championship, ranking as the 6th best speaker. He also reached the semi-finals of the 2024 Joynt Scroll, where he was named the 2nd best speaker, with his team advancing to the elimination rounds ranked first.

Jack Doyle

Business School, Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries

Jack is a member of the New Zealand Youth Choir, representing the nation at prestigious events. He performed the national anthem for the All Blacks at Eden Park, sang at the 2024 World Choir Games, and is preparing for international competitions in Europe in 2025.

James Boland

Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law

James won the 123rd Annual Joynt Scroll, New Zealand's most prestigious debating award, ranking as the 12th best speaker. He also advanced to the elimination rounds at Australs, where his team ranked as the best New Zealand team in the competition.

Jimin Seo

Faculty of Law

Jimin excelled at the 2024 Transatlantic Negotiation Competition, where his team demonstrated outstanding cross-cultural negotiation skills, navigating complex commercial and geopolitical disputes. His performance was instrumental in their success at the largest-ever competition, featuring 28 teams from global universities.

Judy Fong

Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law

Judy advanced to the elimination rounds of the 2024 Australasian Intersvarsity Debating Championships, making an impressive debut. Her team ranked 8th, the highest of any New Zealand team, showcasing her exceptional debating skills in this prestigious event.

Leticia Alvarez

Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law

Leticia was a key team researcher in the University of Auckland's winning team at the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Award. Her expertise in international humanitarian law and the Rome Statute contributed to their success in the national round against the University of Victoria Wellington and University of Otago.

Liam Silverwood

Faculty of Engineering

Liam's debating talent shone through as he reached the Grand Final of the 2023 New Zealand British Parliamentary Championships and was named the 7th best speaker at the semi-finals of the Officers Cup, highlighting his impressive performance in national tournaments.

Maddison Lewis

Faculty of Law

Maddison represented Auckland Law School in regional, national, and international moot and mediation competitions in 2023/2024. His impressive achievements include winning top prizes and presenting before high-profile legal professionals and humanitarian experts in Paris and Hong Kong.

Mannat Kaur

Business School, Faculty of Law

Mannat made history as the youngest person to reach the elimination rounds of the 2023 New Zealand Universities' Impromptu Debating Championships. She followed this by being the top-ranked New Zealand speaker at the Australasian Intersvarsity Debating Championships in Indonesia, one of the world's most prestigious tournaments.

Maria Eduarda Romero de Medeiros

Business School, Faculty of Law

Maria Eduarda was a key member of the winning team at the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot, representing the University of Auckland. Her exceptional oral submissions and expertise in international humanitarian law led her team to victory, earning them a spot to represent New Zealand in Hong Kong.

Melissa Connolly

Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law

Melissa was a semi-finalist at the Officers Cup, ranking 12th overall. She also won the New Zealand Women and Gender Minorities Debating Championship and was a semi-finalist at the Joynt Scroll, where her team advanced to the elimination rounds ranked first and she was the 7th best speaker.

Robert Donohoe

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

Robert is the reigning National Debating Champion, having won the Annual Joynt Scroll, the most prestigious award in New Zealand debating. He was also a semi-finalist at the Officers Cup, ranking 9th overall, and previously reached the semi-finals of the Impromptu Championship.

Rose Allison

Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law

Rose was a Grand Finalist at the 2023 Asia-Pacific International Chamber of Commerce Mediation Competition and represented the University of Auckland at the Paris International Chamber of Commerce Mediation Competition in 2024. Her rigorous training and dedication strengthened University of Auckland's presence in international mediation.

Sumner Hancock

Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Science

Sumner reached the elimination rounds of the 2023 New Zealand Universities' Impromptu Debating Championship, earning recognition as the 2nd best novice speaker. As part of the youngest team to achieve this, Sumner's performance helped cement their place in the top 6 in the country.

Valentino Tew

Faculty of Law

Valentino reached the semi-finals of the 2023 New Zealand Universities' Impromptu Debating Championships, one of the nation's most prestigious competitions. His impressive performance stood out in what was the largest and most competitive championship in the event's history.

Viviene Lazaro Bunquin

Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law

Viviene Lazaro Bunquin: Viviene excelled at the 2024 Transatlantic Negotiation Competition, where her team demonstrated outstanding cross-cultural negotiation skills, navigating complex commercial and geopolitical disputes. Her performance was instrumental in their success at the largest-ever competition featuring 28 teams from global universities.