



## QUENTIN GIBSON PRIZE FOR PHILOSOPHY

### CONDITIONS OF AWARD

#### 1. INTRODUCTION AND RECOGNITION

Each year the School of Philosophy may offer a prize known as the Quentin Gibson Prize for Philosophy.

The prize is awarded annually to the student enrolled in the undergraduate degree program who achieves the best result in the School of Philosophy Honours year.

The value of the prize awarded is \$500.

The prize will be on offer from year to year.

The prize commemorates the late Professor Quentin Gibson (1913-2001) who was a member of the Department of Philosophy between 1948 and 1978. Quentin Gibson came from a distinguished family of Australian philosophers. His father, W.R. Boyce Gibson, was Professor of Philosophy in University of Melbourne and his elder brother Alexander (Sandy) succeeded his father to the Philosophy chair in Melbourne.

Quentin's early career was spent between the Canberra University College and the newly established Australian National University. He also held positions at Oxford University and the University of Western Australia. His work was characterised by a distinct aversion to obscurantism and obfuscation, which he brought to bear both on his elegant and lucid style of writing, and in his teaching. Both were exemplified in his first book, an introduction for students, *Facing Philosophical Problems* (1948). Characteristic of his approach to philosophy was a rejection of any forms of relativism as regards truth. Similarly, there cannot be degrees of truth, or different kinds of existence, a position for which he argued in his final book, *The Existence Principle*, which was published in 1998, his 85th year.

After retirement Quentin Gibson remained philosophically active, writing books and attending philosophy seminars until his death, in 2001.

#### 2. ELIGIBILITY

The award is available each year to an ANU student who is enrolled:

- (a) as a domestic or international student, and
- (b) in Honours Program in the School of Philosophy

### **3. SELECTION AND CONSTRAINTS**

Selection is made on the basis of best result in Honours year.

The School of Philosophy reserves the right to make no award if it considers there is no applicant of sufficient merit. The School may also vary the number of prizes if multiple winners are identified by splitting the prize.

Where required, the University Medal Committee will be available for qualitative or subjective assessment determinants if a decision is not reached within the College to determine prize winners.

### **4. RECIPIENT OBLIGATIONS**

The awarding of a prize is based on the information provided to the University. A prize may be declined by the recipient once they have been notified as the prize winner. This must be provided in writing to College of Arts and Social Sciences no later than one week from notification.

If the prize is accepted by the recipient, they agree to the publication of their name.

The recipient may be asked to participate in marketing activities and/or asked to provide a reflective statement.

### **5. REVIEW OF PRIZE**

The award will be reviewed:

- (a) if the funding no longer exists; or
- (b) if any eligibility requirements are to be amended; or
- (c) after 3 years,

whichever is earliest.

### **6. VARIATION TO CONDITIONS OF AWARD**

In exceptional circumstances and on a case-by-case basis, these conditions of award may be varied by the Dean on the recommendation of the Head of School.

### **7. CONTACT WITH THE COLLEGE**

All enquiries regarding the prize and changes, issues, or further information after acceptance should be made to:

*School of Philosophy*

*College of Arts and Social Sciences*

*The Australian National University*

*Canberra ACTON 2601*

*AUSTRALIA*

*Email: [phil.admin.cass@anu.edu.au](mailto:phil.admin.cass@anu.edu.au)*

## **8. DISCLAIMER**

The recipient of this award is subject to The Australian National University Act 1991 as amended, and to the Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Resolutions of the University.

These conditions of award should be read in conjunction with the University's Coursework Scholarships Policy & Procedures available from the ANU website.

## **9. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES & RULES**

ANU Prizes Policy - [https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP\\_016212](https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_016212)

ANU Prizes Procedure - [https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP\\_016213](https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_016213)

ANU Academic Misconduct Rules - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2014L01785>

ANU Discipline Rules - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2014L01792ANU>