



Press release  
28 May 2025

## Fatima Khanom awarded an SPIE Optics and Photonics Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA — **Fatima Khanom** has been awarded a 2025 Optics and Photonics Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, for potential contributions to optics, photonics, or a related field.



Fatima is a PhD researcher at the Aston Institute of Photonic Technologies and the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences at Aston University (UK). She conducts interdisciplinary research in biophotonics, ophthalmology, and engineering, using structured light with orbital angular momentum (OAM) to create a novel early-diagnosis imaging technique for retinal diseases such as age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy, as well as cancer. Fatima's published computational and experimental analysis in the *Nature's Scientific Reports* received recognition due to her demonstration of phase preservation and microscopic penetration characteristics of OAM in scattering media. She conducts several outreach events as a part of the university's SPIE Student Chapter to inspire the next generation of innovators, researchers, and scientists.

This month, the Society is awarding \$323,000 in scholarships to 74 outstanding SPIE Student Members, based on their potential contribution to optics and photonics, or a related discipline. Successful applicants were evaluated, selected, and approved by the SPIE Scholarship Committee, chaired by SPIE Senior Member **Brian Primeau**.

Since this program began in 1978, SPIE has distributed more than \$7.5 million dollars in individual scholarships. This ambitious effort reflects the Society's commitment to education as well as to the future generations of optical scientists and engineers around the world.

To view other 2025 scholarship press releases as they become available, please visit the [2025 Scholarship Recipients page](#) or learn more about [SPIE scholarships](#) on [spie.org](http://spie.org).

SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, brings engineers, scientists, students, and business professionals together to advance light-based science and technology. The Society, founded in 1955, connects and engages with our global constituency through industry-leading conferences and exhibitions; publications of conference proceedings, books, and journals in the SPIE Digital Library; and career-building opportunities. Over the past five years, we have invested more than \$25 million in the international optics community through our advocacy and support, including scholarships, educational resources, travel grants, endowed gifts, and public-policy development. [www.spie.org](http://www.spie.org).

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