



Press release  
28 May 2025

## Neelan Gouden awarded an SPIE Optics and Photonics Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA — **Neelan Gouden** 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.



Gouden is a PhD candidate at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, under the supervision of Professor **Andrew Forbes** and Dr. **Isaac Nape**. His research focuses on quantum optics, specifically the characterization of high-dimensional quantum bi-photon states in the orbital angular momentum and transverse position degrees of freedom. A key aspect of his work involves leveraging position correlations between photons in bi-photon states to advance quantum ghost imaging. "I am honored to receive this award and remain committed to advancing my research while inspiring young students to pursue their own careers in optics and photonics," said Gouden.

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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