

## Genetics Society of AustralAsia D.G. Catcheside Prize 2025 Award Application Cover Sheet

The D. G. Catcheside Prize has been established to honour the memory of the late Professor David Guthrie Catcheside (1907-1994) by recognizing the achievements of the top Australasian doctoral student in the field of genetics. Professor Catcheside was an eminent geneticist who carried out research on mutation, cytogenetics, biochemical genetics and the genetics of recombination in plants and fungi. He was recruited from Cambridge University to spearhead a strategic plan to introduce fundamental genetics research into Australia. He established Australia's first Department of Genetics at the University of Adelaide in 1952. Professor Catcheside proposed that the Research School of Biological Sciences (RSBS) be established at the Australian National University and served as its first Director. Professor Catcheside was a founding member of the Australian Academy of Science and was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society (London). Professor Catcheside was renowned as an outstanding mentor of postgraduate students. Many of his former students now hold positions of leadership in the Australian and international genetics research communities.

This prize is a most fitting way to mark this legacy and to encourage excellence in postgraduate scholarship. The prize is made available by a generous bequest to the Genetics Society of AustralAsia from Professor Catcheside's family. A detailed description of the scientific contributions of Professor Catcheside can be found at the Australian Academy of Science website. The prize will be awarded to one individual on an annual basis. The prize will be open to entrants whose doctoral thesis has passed examination in the calendar year prior to the award (i.e., applicants should have passed examination in 2024 to be eligible for the 2025 award). A panel of three adjudicators will be responsible for selecting the winner. The rules of the award are as follows:

1. The prize will be awarded for research that has led to the award of a doctoral degree by an Australasian university.
2. The doctoral research must be substantially in the field of genetics. The adjudication panel retains the right to determine whether a particular thesis is in the field of genetics. For the purposes of this prize 'genetics' is defined as 'a discipline that uses inherited variation, either natural or induced, to solve biological problems.'
3. In reaching their decision the adjudicators will consider: a supervisor's citation pertaining to the significance of the research (maximum length of two type written pages), and the Thesis Examiners' Reports. In exceptional cases where two applications are considered equal on the basis of the first two criteria, the thesis itself will be considered.
4. Membership of the Genetics Society of AustralAsia is not required and will not be one of the criteria considered by the adjudicators in selecting a prize winner. However, the prize winner will be offered the opportunity to present their doctoral research at the Genetics Society of AustralAsia Conference following the award.

The award consists of:

- a certificate
- the opportunity to present an invited talk at the 2025 conference
- a prize valued at AU\$2000
- one year's GSA membership
- registration fees to attend the conference, including a dinner ticket if applicable (**Important note:** all applicants should not register to the conference before their application outcome is known. Unsuccessful applicants will have guaranteed access to early bird registration fees)

## Application information – D. G. Catcheside Prize 2025

Name of applicant	
Applicant email address	
Applicant phone number	

If you are submitting a nomination on behalf of someone else, please provide your (the nominator's) details below. If you are self-nominating, please leave this section blank. Note that both self-nominations and nominations on behalf of others are permitted and will be considered equally.

Name of nominator	
Nominator email address	
Nominator phone number	

### **Award checklist:**

The following documents should be included:

- a citation outlining the significance of the research (maximum 2 pages) from the applicant's PhD supervisor (in cases of joint supervision only one citation should be submitted)
- evidence the thesis was passed by an Australasian university in the calendar year 2023
- copies of the thesis examiners' reports

### **How to apply**

Applications must be submitted by email by midnight (AEDT) 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to [GSA@asnevents.net.au](mailto:GSA@asnevents.net.au) with "Catcheside Prize" in the subject line.