

**THE KONRAD KULESZA AWARD**

**(Martial arts)**

Applications are invited from prospective and current Postgraduates for the

Konrad Kulesza Award for **2017**

*VALUE:* **R12 000**

*CRITERIA:*

1. ***Participation in Martial arts:***

• At least 1 year of satisfactory training at one of three Rhodes Clubs (Aikido, Goju Ryu, Fanchento Kung Fu), if no suitable candidate applies, candidates from other Martial Arts clubs and other sports clubs can will be considered (in this order);

• The holder should have the appropriate attitude to Martial Arts, have the requisite personal character and respect for other martial artists. The successful applicant should show an appreciation of the broader agenda connected with Martial Art, and follow the way of Bushido in one’s life.

2. The holder should be an independent thinker, ideally someone involved in scientific studies and

displaying research potential. Ideally the successful applicant should:

• Be involved in the interdisciplinary research. Preferably joining a mathematical sciences (such as mathematics, computers science or statistics) with some humanities (i.e. history) or economics (especially macro-economics);

• Show the clear potential to make a positive contribution to their field of study.

3. Race and gender of applicants will not be considered in the granting of the award.

4. If two applicants of equal strength and one is Polish descent, then the latter shall receive the award.

***IN ORDER TO APPLY, PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION:***

a. Full curriculum vitae and academic record;

b. Motivation letter;

c. 2x referee letters: one from an Academic, the other from a martial arts instructor.

Completed documents to be handed in at the Postgraduate Funding, Research Office, Room 206, Main Admin, no later than the **5 December 2016**. ***Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.***

***BACKGROUND TO THE AWARD:***

Konrad Kulesza 27.02.1979 - 24.05.2003 : Student, academic, sportsman, philosopher and warrior in the tradition of Bushido. Died tragically whilst studying at Rhodes University, his untimely death cutting short great potential in various fields.

Konrad Kulesza had multiple interests and had many achievements. He was an accomplished sportsman. It is easier to list the sport that he was not doing, than ones that he was involved in. His attitude to sports was well expressed in his uncompromising approach to Martial Arts. In his life Konrad was warrior at heart, following the path of Bushido, which epitomizes strong character in terms of an ancient Japanese code.

Konrad’s life philosophy was appropriately described by his friend and sensei Clint Cockcroft in his tribute read during Konrad’s memorial service held at the Rhodes University Chapel on 2 June 2003:

“He was the only person who trained with all the Martial Arts clubs on campus, he consistently made seminars no matter where in the country they were being held and regularly helped with administrative duties.

Konrad was a Martial Arts student of uncompromising dedication with great skills and an enquiring mind; if Konrad asked a question that took less than five minutes to answer you could rest assured the topic would be revisited. He used to say that his Martial Arts practice connected him with those aspects of himself that he admired the most; what he called the student, the philosopher and the warrior. “

Rhodes Martial Arts clubs honoured Konrad's contribution, dedication and spirit through awarding him Yudansha status. The Rhodes Goju Ryu Karate Club, Aikido Club and the Kung Fu Club each post-humously awarded him with the first degree black belt.

Konrad's activities were not only limited to sports. He was a Rhodes University graduate (BSc 2001), was about to get his second degree (BA) and was simultaneously doing his Honours studies in Statistics (UNISA). Konrad majored in Computer Science and Mathematics for his BSc, while Economics and History were his planned majors for his BA.

The spectrum of his studies does not cover his extra-curricula interests and activities, which can be summarized as getting involved in a vast spectrum of independent thinking. A description of Konrad’s thinking would be an intellectual journey into the realm of interdisciplinary research. People with such broad interests usually have a more difficult start to their careers since they do not easily fit into the category of a narrowly focused specialist. It requires great courage and self-confidence to carry on your research alone, as Konrad frequently did.

During his short life, Konrad managed to prepare and publish his first research paper; other research projects were underway. From these resulted a second paper, a joint work with Prof. Zbigniew Kotulski and his brother Kamil Kulesza, which was published after his death. Although still needing refinement, Konrad’s academic writing was clear and precise. He was very close to the point where he would obtain wide recognition for his work, something that he would have greatly appreciated.

This award aims to provide financial support and impetus for individuals, who like Konrad, carry on independent research, while not getting much formal recognition or financing.

