Debye, Peter Joseph William 1884 - 1966

DEGREE: PhD (physics) DATE: 1908 PLACE: Munich
TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Sommerfeld

Nobel Prize in 1936 for his contributions to the study of molecular structures through his investigations of dipole moments and the diffraction of X-rays and electrons by gases and solids; recognized for his pioneering work by the designation of the Debye unit of polar moment; revolutionized the theory of the specific heats of solids, giving specific heat as a function of temperature by a formula which is the same for all solids (containing a constant dependent upon the solid called the Debye temperature); co-discovered the powder method for analyzing crystal structure; suggested that the deviation of electrolytes from the laws of ideal solutions is due to interionic attraction.