



Australia Awards



MACQUARIE
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Guest Lecture

'Empowering Women to Lead in STEM'

By: Ms Charanya Ramakrishnan

Friday, 6 March 2026

1:45pm to 4:00pm (Jakarta time)

Indonesian graduates and scholars of Australian tertiary institutions who are interested in attending this event, please RSVP by Wednesday, 4 March, via this link:

<http://oz.link/rsvpGL6MAR>

**Due to the limited availability of places, early registration is recommended. A link to this event will be shared with you after registration.*

Lecture overview

Gender inequality remains a persistent challenge across science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), despite growing global attention to equity and inclusion. This lecture opens with a vision of classrooms where all girls can see themselves as future scientists, engineers and technology leaders. Drawing on UNESCO data, it examines enduring gender gaps in STEM participation and leadership, and considers how early attitudes, social expectations and learning environments shape girls' engagement and progression over time.

Building on this broader context, the lecture draws on the speaker's experience as a computing academic to move beyond statistics and into everyday realities within classrooms and institutions. It highlights how curriculum design, teaching practices and long-standing institutional structures, often developed without women's perspectives, can unintentionally limit participation, advancement and leadership opportunities. These systemic barriers not only affect individual career pathways but also constrain innovation and leadership capacity across STEM disciplines.

The lecture ultimately positions women's leadership in STEM as central to building fair, inclusive and future-ready systems. It outlines practical strategies, including curriculum reform, mentoring and targeted outreach initiatives, to better support and inspire female students. By fostering collaboration across education, policy and industry, the session seeks to contribute to meaningful change and help shape a future in which every student can pursue leadership and innovation in STEM.

Ms Charanya Ramakrishnan is an award-winning educator and academic leader in the School of Computing at Macquarie University. She is the Course Director for the Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT), where she leads curriculum design across seven majors with a strong focus on industry alignment and future workforce needs. Ms Ramakrishna also serves as Shadow to the Deputy Dean of Education and Employability (2025), School of Computing Retention Lead (2024), and is a founding member of the Computing Education Research Group. Her research interests include Artificial Intelligence in Education, Learning Analytics, and Computing Education.

Renowned for her innovative and inclusive teaching, Ms Ramakrishnan is recognised for creative approaches that make complex IT concepts accessible and engaging for students. She convenes large first-year units with more than 1,400 enrolments and has introduced industry-relevant frameworks such as React Native and Flutter into the curriculum. Ms Ramakrishnan's teaching excellence has been recognised through multiple awards, including the Macquarie Vice-Chancellor's Award and the 2023 AAUT Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning. She was also a finalist in the AFR Higher Education Awards for Teaching and Learning Excellence (2024) and Equity and Access (2025).

Ms Ramakrishnan is deeply committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. She serves on the School of Computing EDI Committee, is a member of Macquarie's Ally Network, and is the founding academic mentor of the Women in Computing student group, which grew from 12 members in 2022 to over 300 by 2024. She also founded the Bonding Through Coding Outreach Program, which introduces primary school children and their families to programming in a supportive and inclusive environment.



★ / **Ms Charanya Ramakrishnan**
Course Director,
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