



News Release

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Avanade Australia partners with Swinburne University of Technology to help close gender gap in STEM

Avanade's Women in STEM scholarship program aims to inspire women and equip them with the skills needed for the future of work

Australia, December 15, 2020 - [Avanade](#), the leading digital innovator on the Microsoft ecosystem, today announced its first Women in STEM scholarship program with Swinburne University of Technology – enabling young women in Australia to pursue education and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) professions.

The scholarship program, Avanade's first in Australia, will provide six students with vital financial support, internship opportunities and invitations to attend Avanade's Innovation events for hands-on learning. Scholarship recipients will also be offered graduate placements upon completion of their degrees. In addition, the six students will receive coaching and mentoring from Avanade Australia leaders, so they have the support and guidance they need to achieve their aspirations.

The scholarship program, which is now [open for applications](#) for a February 2021 start at Swinburne, aims to build a more diverse, dynamic future workforce in STEM. It focuses on the building blocks of successful career development, from social networking skills to team building. The scholarship program will support the six students for the entire duration of their university courses and is part of Avanade's broader [global scholarship program](#).

"We're thrilled to announce our first Women in STEM scholarship program in Australia, in partnership with a world-renowned education institution like Swinburne University of Technology," said Carol Gobby, Executive Sales Leadership and Corporate Citizenship Lead at Avanade Australia. "We share a mutual desire with Swinburne to help more people access the opportunities and benefits of technology and education. As we navigate through this period of uncertainty, we believe STEM skills will be pivotal to the ongoing recovery and rapid pace of change. We want to make a genuine human impact by helping to improve the diversity within those sectors across Australia - ensuring as many people as possible are trained and ready for the jobs of the future."



Swinburne University of Technology's Vice-Chancellor Professor Pascale Quester said that Swinburne has a strong reputation for developing strong STEM skills in aspiring learners and leaders, for men and women.

"Swinburne has a strong culture of gender equity and inclusion. We are committed to encouraging the brightest women and girls in pursuing STEM and advancing Australia's competitive capability in these fields. This new scholarship partnership will help ensure these women can be supported, nurtured and inspired," Professor Quester said.

The Avanade STEM Scholarship program has been running globally since 2015 and has so far supported 99 young female students, helping to close the gender gap in the technology workplace. Today, the program has 14 university partners around the globe in countries such as the United States, Canada, Italy, France, Japan and China. With a wide international base, students have the opportunity to build key relationships with their peers, which they can draw upon throughout their careers.

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About Avanade

Avanade is the leading provider of innovative digital and cloud services, business solutions and design-led experiences on the Microsoft ecosystem. Our professionals bring bold, fresh thinking combined with technology, business and industry expertise to help make a human impact on our clients, their customers and their employees. We are the power behind the Accenture Microsoft Business Group, helping companies to engage customers, empower employees, optimize operations and transform products, leveraging the Microsoft platform. Avanade has 39,000 professionals in 25 countries, bringing clients our best thinking through a collaborative culture that honors diversity and reflects the communities in which we operate. Majority owned by Accenture, Avanade was founded in 2000 by Accenture LLP and Microsoft Corporation. Learn more at www.avanade.com.

About Swinburne University

Swinburne is a world-class university creating social and economic impact through science technology and innovation. With campuses in Melbourne and in Sarawak, Malaysia, a desire to innovate and bring about positive change motivates our students and staff.