



2025

UTS International Alumni Award Winner Media Kit

Information and assets for agents

**Dr Phyto
Phyto San**

2025 UTS
International
Alumni Award
Winner



**UTS
College**

UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY
SYDNEY

Background

Dr Phyo Phyo San is a globally recognised expert in artificial intelligence and data science, with a career spanning more than 15 years across defence, energy, healthcare, and finance. As Lead Research Scientist for the Australian Government, she leads the Machine Learning and Edge Analytics team, developing AI-enabled solutions for specialist government programs.

Her work applies machine learning to real-time sensor data, predictive maintenance, fraud detection, solar energy integration, and COVID-19 treatment rollouts. These innovations have supported strategic national objectives and improved operational performance across sectors. Her academic research, including her PhD from UTS in 2013 (DPhil), demonstrates her global impact and commitment to high-impact, rigorous science.

Dr San's doctoral research at UTS focused on computational intelligence and biomedical applications, including groundbreaking work in hypoglycaemia monitoring systems to assist people with diabetes. Her career includes leadership roles at ASTAR Singapore, Standard Chartered, Suncorp, MSD, and Essential Energy, where she delivered transformative AI solutions tailored to each sector's unique challenges. From fraud detection and customer analytics to energy grid optimisation and pharmaceutical forecasting, her work consistently bridges technical innovation with strategic outcomes.

Dr San is also a dedicated mentor and educator. She has supported teaching at UTS, led internal training programs, and contributed to Defence STEM initiatives, helping shape the next generation of AI professionals and women in STEM.

Award

The 2025 UTS International Alumni Award.

About the awards

The outstanding recipients of the UTS Alumni Awards come from a diverse range of professional backgrounds and demonstrate the immense talent that exists within the UTS alumni community. They all share our UTS core values – a commitment to excellence, innovation, entrepreneurship, and social justice.

These inspiring graduates epitomise the immense depth of talent within the UTS alumni community – high achievers who are professionally distinguished in their fields and driven by a desire to create a lasting impact in the world.

The International Alumni Award, sponsored by UTS College, recognises outstanding achievement by a graduate enrolled as an international student while attending UTS. In 2025, that special award winner was Dr Phyo Phyo San.

Videos

Video interview: Dr Phyo Phyo San, AI and Machine Learning Lead for the Australian Government, talks about her career journey and what inspires her.



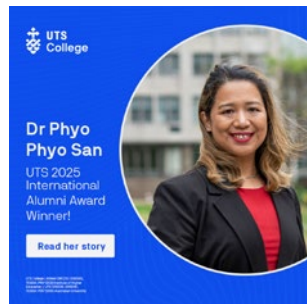
YouTube
(English subtitles)



YouKu
(Chinese subtitles)

Social media

Dr Phyo Phyo San has some fun giving her take on how AI can be used for a range of situations!



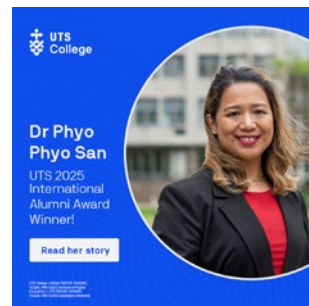
Instagram



Facebook



TikTok



LinkedIn

File links: [click through to social media videos here](#) to create your own posts.

We would appreciate you tagging our UTS College account (@utscollege on most platforms) when sharing our content. Thanks!

Winner image gallery

[Click here](#) to access a range of images of the 2025 International Alumni Award Winner and the gala awards night.

Social tiles and web banners

[Click here](#) to download range of social tiles and web banners of the 2025 UTS International Alumni Award winner for your use.

Add a link to the [written web article](#) or [YouTube video](#) on the banners and tiles when you post!

Press release

Leading AI research scientist wins UTS International Alumni Award.

Dr Phyo Phyo San's far-reaching influence recognised.

The UTS International Alumni Award, proudly sponsored by UTS College, has been presented to Dr Phyo Phyo San, Lead Research Scientist, AI and Machine Learning, for the Australian Government. The 2025 award, presented at a gala dinner in the Great Hall at UTS, celebrates Dr San's outstanding achievements as a member of the global community of UTS graduates.

A leader in AI and Data Science

Throughout her career, Phyo has applied cutting edge research on AI and machine learning to address complex real-world challenges such as energy optimisation, market analytics, fraud detection, predictive maintenance, target detection, human activity recognition, and health condition monitoring. In her current role, she focuses on AI-driven solutions for the Australian Government.

Encouraging the next generation

Passionate about mentoring and fostering the next generation of AI talent, Phyo also conducts internal training, contributes to STEM programs, supports teaching at UTS, and hosts seminars through Women in AI – a non-profit that empowers women and minorities to become innovators, leaders, and experts in AI and data. She says:

“Being from Myanmar, I understand the challenges developing countries face in advancing technology, so I actively share my knowledge whenever I can. Mentoring the next generation is an important part of my work, beyond my regular responsibilities.”

UTS a turning point

Phyo completed her PhD (in computational intelligence) at UTS in 2013. She considers her time at UTS an important turning point in her life, saying: “After my PhD, I got more recognition and more opportunities. I didn't just learn how to research. I learned how to communicate across cultures.”

The power of learning

Morwenna Shahani, Chief Executive Officer at UTS College, says UTS College is delighted to sponsor this award: “Dr. Phyo Phyo San shows us the transformative impact of a UTS education. Beyond her exceptional contributions as a leading AI research scientist, Phyo breaks down barriers for the next generation through her tireless work with Women in AI and early-career professionals from developing countries. Phyo lifts others as she climbs, whether mentoring aspiring data scientists across borders or supporting emerging talent. She reminds us that impact is measured not only by individual achievement, but by how we empower others along the way.”

About UTS and UTS College

The University of Technology Sydney is a dynamic and innovative university, ranked 96th in the world in the 2026 QS World University rankings, reflecting its strength in research, teaching, employability, sustainability, and internationalisation.

Students often begin their UTS experience with UTS College, the pathway to UTS, which offers English Language programs, UTS Foundation Studies, Higher Education Diplomas (Animation Production, Business, Communications, Design & Architecture, Engineering, IT and Science) and Cambridge International AS and A levels. For course details, visit utscollege.edu.au.

For further information, contact:

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Manager, Brand and Communications at UTS College.

Web profile

You can read Dr Phyo Phyo San's interview with UTS College on our website [here](#).

Newsletter content

UTS International Alumni Award winner announced!

UTS College proudly congratulates Dr Phyo Phyo San, winner of this year's UTS International Alumni Award. Growing up in Myanmar, Dr San's fascination with engineering was nurtured by her parents' encouragement and her visits to local universities. That passion led her to earn multiple engineering qualifications from Mandalay Technological University, Nanyang Technological University, and the National University of Singapore, before securing a UTS International Research Scholarship to pursue her PhD at UTS. Balancing her studies with new motherhood, Phyo's journey was one of resilience and determination, supported by her UTS supervisors, peers, and family.

Today, Phyo is Lead Research Scientist, AI and Machine Learning, for the Australian Government, with a career spanning academia, government, and industry. Her expertise has driven real-world innovation in areas from energy optimisation to healthcare monitoring. Reflecting on her time at UTS as a turning point, she credits the experience with building her research skills, confidence, and cross-cultural communication. A passionate mentor and advocate for women in technology through the Women in AI network, Dr San continues to inspire others by sharing her knowledge and empowering the next generation of innovators.

Congratulations to Dr Phyo Phyo San on this well-deserved recognition! [Read more](#).

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