

## Zilinka Jiang announced 2024 Women Leaders in AI/Data Science Scholarship winner

**9 October 2024**

The Actuaries Institute, in partnership with Chief Executive Women (CEW), is proud to announce Zilinka Jiang as the recipient of the 2024 [Actuaries Institute Women Leaders in AI / Data Science](#). This prestigious scholarship will enable Ms Jiang to attend the Stanford Graduate School of Business's Executive Program in Leadership in the United States.

Ms Jiang is an accomplished data scientist with 15 years' experience in driving client-focused solutions and innovative data strategies. She holds a Fellowship from the Actuaries Institute and a degree in Applied Finance and Actuarial Studies from Macquarie University.

As Executive Data Science at Quantum, Ms Jiang has led high-impact projects across telecommunications, retail, and finance, delivering value through Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data-driven transformations. She has also led global teams, developed data science practices and overseen career growth for over 100 data scientists. Her notable achievements include transforming hospital planning during the COVID 19 pandemic, implementing a personalisation engine for a US bank, and optimising insurance portfolios. Zilinka's focus on technical leadership and mentoring has shaped the careers of data scientists across the globe, positioning her as a leading figure in data science and AI innovation.

"Through this scholarship, I hope to gain new insights and skills that will help me scale data science excellence within our organisation. I am focused on building high-performing teams that can deliver innovative AI solutions while also fostering an inclusive culture that encourages diverse talent to thrive. My goal is to drive outcomes that improve the lives of everyday Australians through data-driven decision making," Ms Jiang said.

"I am incredibly excited and honoured to have been awarded this scholarship. It is a wonderful recognition of my journey so far, and I look forward to using this opportunity to grow as a leader and create an even greater impact in the field of data science. This win is not just for me, but also for the team and the women in STEM I hope to inspire to pursue their dreams of leading in this field."

In an era where AI and data are transforming the global and local economic landscape, effective leadership is crucial. The Actuaries Institute recognises the importance of developing the skills and supporting rich connections for actuaries and those working in data science and AI. Leaders today face complex societal challenges such as climate change and inequality.

Actuaries Institute CEO Elayne Grace said: "This scholarship is a testament to our commitment to fostering female leadership in data science and AI. It is essential to support and develop leaders who can harness the power of data and AI to address the pressing challenges of our time. We are proud to support Zilinka Jiang in her journey and look forward to the impact she will make."

Ms Jiang will join a line-up of talented plenary speakers at [AI.Con \[2024\]: Data to the Power of AI](#), which is being hosted by The Actuaries Institute in Sydney on 7 November 2024. The event has been developed for data and AI practitioners to harness innovation for the future. Other guest speakers include Dr Cassie Kozyrkov, former Chief Decision Scientist at Google who was instrumental in shaping AI strategies at one of the world's leading tech companies.

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**About the Actuaries Institute and the Profession**

As the peak professional body in Australia, the Actuaries Institute represents the profession to Government, business and the community, and holds the 'public interest' and 'common good' as key principles in developing policy.

Actuaries use data for good by harnessing evidence to navigate the future and make a positive impact. They think deeply about the issue at hand, whether is advising on commercial strategy, influencing policy, or designing new products. Actuaries are adept at balancing the interests of stakeholders, clients, and communities. They are called upon to give insight into complex problems and they will look at the full picture to develop solutions. Actuaries analyse data and model scenarios to form robust and outcome-centred advice.

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