Dr Chong It Tan

🌟 Highly commended
Vice-Chancellor’s Learning and Teaching Early Career Award

Dr Chong It Tan creates a personalised, interactive learning experience for his students that suits both learning environments: classroom and online. A key focus is to build confidence in his students, allowing just the right amount of scaffolding at each step of the learning process to encourage active participation as they build a deeper understanding of the topic.

“I create meaningful experiences for students by creating an interactive and engaging community of learners both in the classroom and online. Online student engagement is an important part of the learning experience. I use Poll Everywhere, iLearn’s Discussion Forum and Personalised Learning Designer to create a tailored experience for all students.”

“He is very passionate and considerate. I also think he explains things really well and always tries to use simple examples to help us understand some tricky concepts. He is the reason that I go to lecture every week. I think he is my best lecturer this semester! Great teacher, makes everything easy to understand, cares about his students, helpful and approachable.”

– 2019 Macquarie Student

Dr Frances Chang

🌟 Highly commended
Vice-Chancellor’s Learning and Teaching Sessional Staff Award

Dr Frances Chang uses a combination of deep-thinking and problem-solving exercises to create an inspiring environment that encourages student engagement and participation. She will often ask her students to articulate their own views on theoretical concepts and then share her own industry experience to bring their theories to life.

“Students really do want to learn, and I want to contribute and make a difference in their learning. I challenge students to think of creative and wacky solutions to old and existing problems. I introduce competitive pitch presentations to create a high-energy environment and fun learning space that promotes healthy competition among students.”
Associate Professor Jordi McKenzie

Associate Professor Jordi McKenzie believes that a key way to motivate his students to learn is to captivate them with great course material. He inspires his students by giving them access to the latest, most relevant and thought-provoking research in the field. He's passionate about making a difference to his students' lives and the world we live in, and also hopes that his teaching motivates his students to think about how economics can contribute to the important issues we face as global citizens.

“In my unit (Applied Microeconomic Topics), students are exposed to cutting-edge research published in some of the top journals of the discipline. The research papers I select deal with contemporary problems, while making use of the latest methodologies available. In this way, the material that students learn really is at the forefront of current research.”

“Jordi was able to succinctly break down complex research papers without excluding critical learning information. This helped us in being able to understand and summarise complex industry issues by following the same methodology used in the lectures by Jordi.”

“Jordi is also approachable and his wide knowledge in economics is an added value for the students to indulge in conversations and debates relating to current issues.”

– 2019 Macquarie Students

Dr Kay Naumann

Dr Kay Naumann motivates her students to succeed by emphasising the long-term and transformative impacts of their university experience – in and out of the classroom. She often sees students becoming unmotivated from adopting a tunnel-vision focus on final grades and degree completion, which she believes takes away their ability to enjoy the process of learning about themselves and the world around them.

“I aim to instil a bigger picture perspective by highlighting the value that our lessons have beyond the classroom. For example, challenging coursework becomes a lesson in self-resilience, group work conflicts teach personal relationship management, and an impossible assignment becomes an activity in self-belief and determination.”

“She inspired a love and passion for business, providing a real insight by utilising her own personal experiences to better inform her teaching. She always related the theoretical to the practical, which made her teaching style super engaging. She also actively sought feedback and evaluation on her teaching and recognised every class requires a different style of teacher, as people learn differently. She wasn’t set in her ways, and you could tell she genuinely valued self-growth and improvement as a teacher which was really refreshing!”

– 2019 Macquarie Student
Dr LayPeng Tan

🌟 Highly commended
Vice- Chancellor’s Learning and Teaching Student Nominated Award

Dr LayPeng Tan says, “Teach from the heart, for the heart summarises what teaching is all about”. She believes her role as a teacher is much more than just empowering her students with knowledge about their chosen area of study. Rather, she’s committed to helping all of her students develop their potential and capabilities, so they can achieve their goals within and beyond the classroom.

“I’m grateful and humbled by this student nomination. My role as a teacher goes beyond imparting knowledge; I’m an enabler of students’ success. I equip students with work and life skills, inspire them to learn and challenge them to strive for excellence. I achieve this by creating a class environment that encourages all students to invest in their learning experience and through my personal connections with them.”

“Dr LayPeng Tan is one of the most engaging lecturers I’ve had at Macquarie. I initially chose the marketing unit as I thought it would be a useful course for work. But her love and passion for the discipline has made me think far more broadly about, for example, my purchasing decisions in day-to-day life, as well as how I approach my work and studies. I believe I speak on behalf of the entire unit cohort when I say her love for her work has driven her students to be passionate marketing students.”

– 2019 Macquarie Student

Dr Mauricio Marrone

🌟 Highly commended
Vice- Chancellor’s Award for Learning Innovation

One of the ways Dr Mauricio Marrone inspires his students is by keeping them focused on their dream job while they undertake their learning journey at Macquarie. He asks his students at the start of the session to search for advertisements of their ideal job and then reflect on what they’re learning with this in mind.

“When session commencement, I ask students to search for three to five job ads that represent their perfect job and to make the link between what they’re learning and how they can get the job. I highlight the links between their future aspirations and learning material covered in class whenever I can, and have found this to be a powerful and meaningful motivator.”
Dr Nader Hanna

Dr Nader Hanna believes that as an educator it is his responsibility to create a challenging, friendly and fun environment that is conducive to learning. To achieve this, he has redeveloped the teaching content to be goal-based with problem-solving activities and case studies designed to connect what is taught in the classroom with real-world problems and applications.

“I believe my role as an educator is to be a facilitator that guides learners to achieve authentic learning and encourages them to learn independently.”

“He is a great teacher with great moral values. He is not only a genius but also knows how to make the topic interesting to students. He is always helpful. He always tries his best to give whatever a student needs to understand the unit.”

“For ISYS114, his lectures are very elaborate and interesting. In the beginning I was really struggling with the subject, but after attending his lectures, I got a better understanding of the subject and also managed to get a distinction.”

– 2019 Macquarie Students

Nandini Kumar

Nandini Kumar’s learning strategy is to make learning fun, and she works hard to truly engage with, and get to know, her students. For example, she strives to know every student by name; addresses them by their name; and ensures her written feedback and comments are delivered in a conversational style, using their first name. When her students are engaged and ready to embrace learning, she provides them with an environment and learning materials that are interesting, fun and easily navigated.

“My approach in three words is ‘Make learning fun!’ When fun replaces fear, the student will be on a path of continuous self-directed learning, which then means they require no pushing and external motivation to succeed.”

“Kumar is an awesome lecturer. She’s very understanding and patient with us. Her explanations of the lectures are simple to understand as well, even if the subject is quite complex. I nominate her to receive a great teacher award. Thanks Kumar!”

“She is very student interactive and can really read the whole class and how the class is going. Her examples are very good and practical. Nandini, as a friendly teacher, has really helped us a lot.”

– 2019 Macquarie Students
Nina Bernius
Nina Bernius encourages her students to constantly seek new methods of learning and self-improvement through effective and reflective feedback. One of the ways she has brought this to life is by creating an opportunity for students to be involved in the learning and teaching process, through the Business School’s Student Representative Program. Each semester hundreds of students participate in this program, which focuses on acquiring skills that enable the process of continuous improvement in their unit and within themselves.

“I encourage students to reflect on their learning, no matter what stage they are at, by having an authentic conversation with them about their short-term and long-term goals, and then I am able to provide a personalised approach to developing their skills to reach their goals.”

Dr Paul Crosby
Dr Paul Crosby has observed the needs and aspirations of university students rapidly evolving and believes that it’s more important than ever to provide transformative learning experiences that help students build meaningful, agile careers. He believes that the discipline of economics offers fascinating insights into the world around us and works hard to create a learning environment where students engage in learning activities that enhance their appreciation of economics.

“In my teaching, I aim to draw upon these valuable insights and connect topics to an array of real-world issues that allow students to apply their knowledge of economics in familiar settings. My goal is to create a stimulating learning environment where students feel invested in the subject matter.”

“Paul is an excellent lecturer who, rather than ‘telling’ us to do the work, makes us want to do the work. He greatly enhanced my understanding of economics, as well as how to produce a research paper. He clearly explains concepts and the requirements for tasks and is a standout lecturer, unit convenor, tutor and mentor.”

– 2019 Macquarie Student
Peter Clark

Peter Clark instils in his students a sense of purpose in their own learning journey at Macquarie. He teaches with honesty and vulnerability, and focuses on helping students make the right study choices that will set them up for future success.

“Leonardo da Vinci said that ‘Study without desire spoils the memory, and it retains nothing that it takes in’. This perspective helps inspire students to take ownership of their learning, otherwise why are they spending their time and money at university?”

“Peter is very friendly to his students and really funny and open-minded when teaching in class. He’s an awesome teacher who is able to everybody in our class. He made sure everyone was travelling well with the content whilst making classes super enjoyable and engaging.”

– 2019 Macquarie Student

Dr Prashan Shayanka Mendis Karunaratne

🌟 Highly commended
Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Teaching Excellence
🌟 Highly commended
Vice-Chancellor’s Educational Leader Award

Dr Prashan Shayanka Mendis Karunaratne believes with the right teaching and learning environment, higher education can be for anyone. He inspires his students to embark on successful learning journeys by using threshold concepts to convey the relevance of the discipline being discussed. He’s also committed to helping students succeed by providing them with effective learning tools based on learning taxonomies.

“Students learn best when they're inspired to understand the ‘why’ about their learning and when teachers acknowledge that learning itself is a journey that requires tools to navigate, which in turn equips students with the ‘how’ about their learning. Once given the ‘why’ and the ‘how’, higher education can be for anyone.”

“I really enjoyed the lectures and got a lot of resources to learn. He was friendly and always had practical and real-life examples to help us understand the concepts. I never liked economics and by the time I enrolled for this unit, I was a media student. However, Dr Prashan was able to change my point of view for economics, and for the first time ever, I got so interested in economics and business. I volunteered to be a unit representative and achieved a distinction for the unit.”

– 2019 Macquarie Student
Dr Senia Kalfa and Deborah Howlett

Dr Senia Kalfa and Deborah Howlett believe educators have a responsibility to be there for their students. As such, they have worked consistently to establish a close relationship with the Bachelor of Business Leadership and Commerce cohort so that when they are faced with challenges, they can comfortably approach their teachers for advice and guidance.

“This relationship allows us to heed any motivation issues and address them early. In addition, we bring in numerous senior executives as guest lecturers who present their journeys to leadership. This allows students to get some clarity over skills and experiences that are beneficial for them as future executives, but also establish networks.”

– Dr Senia Kalfa