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## **World's greatest mathematician named 2022 Global Australian of the Year**

**Australian maths genius Professor Terence Tao is named the prestigious Global Australian of the Year for 2022, in recognition of his contribution to the field of mathematics and his efforts to turn complex maths into a simple tool for everyday problem solving.**

The Global Australian Awards, presented by [Advance Global Australians](#), recognise the soft power and significant influence of Australian expats and international alumni of Australian universities, who are leading crucial advancements on the global stage in industries critical to Australia.

Prof Tao's award was announced during the live broadcast of the 2022 Global Australian Awards, along with 12 category winners joining more than 160 eminent Australians recognised as Advance GameChangers over the past 11 years.

Advance Global Australians CEO Johanna Pitman said Professor Tao is a remarkable leader working at the cutting edge of his field, and someone to be celebrated across the nation.

"The Global Australian Awards are a powerful opportunity to spotlight and celebrate the immense contribution of Australian diaspora driving global impact around the world," Ms Pitman said.

"Prof Tao is a phenomenal example of the talent and contribution of Australian expats leading their professions on the global stage. His contribution to the field of mathematics is unparalleled. He is indeed one of the greatest mathematicians in the world."

A child prodigy who grew up in the hills of Adelaide, Prof Tao is regarded as the 'Mozart of Maths', recognised globally for his natural ability to solve enormously complicated problems across a broad range of mathematical fields. He completed his PhD in Mathematics at Princeton University at the age of 20, and at the age of 31, he was awarded the Fields Medal - regarded as the Nobel Prize of mathematics - for his contributions to partial differential equations, combinatorics, harmonic analysis and additive number theory. He has been the author or co-author of over 350 research papers and 18 books, and continues to attract top students from all over the world, eager to study with him at UCLA, where he has been a professor since completing his PhD.

Prof Tao is determined to make his field more accessible by demystifying mathematics and showcasing its power as an everyday foundation for problem solving and creative thinking.

“Maths in school is often just about a whole bunch of sums, tests and exams – students don’t get to see the connection to problem solving in the real world. I want to convey that the way we think about mathematics is coming from real-world common sense and intuition. There is a creative process to mathematical problem solving, and it can be applied in everyday situations,” Professor Tao said.

Prof Tao focuses much of his energies today on mentoring and developing the next generation of mathematicians, both in his classes at UCLA and also through his engagement with the broader public. In January 2022, he teamed up with global learning platform MasterClass to launch their first series on mathematical thinking, in which he shares his approach to mathematical inquiry and shows viewers how they can apply maths in their daily lives.

“In these incredibly challenging times, it is inspiring to see Professor Tao’s determination to share his wisdom and engage people of all walks of life in the power of maths as a tool for problem solving and creativity,” Ms Pitman said.

“Prof Tao leads with such humility and is admired for his eagerness to collaborate and for the outcomes achieved as a result of his efforts to combine ideas and build connections across fields. He has worked with many of the world’s other leading mathematicians and physicists to solve problems collectively, resulting in some of the greatest mathematical discoveries in areas of mathematical and scientific theory that had been considered impossible to solve for centuries. He is a global Australian we should all be proud of and a spectacular role model for learners – young and old – curious about opportunities in STEM.”

This year’s Global Australian Awards attracted more than 400 nominations, with 34 finalists selected and 12 category winners named. This year’s Awards also included a new category recognising recent migrants to Australia who are having an outsized impact in future-facing industries.

“This year’s award winners are tackling global challenges with purpose and persistence, driving impact across their professions, industries and sectors around the world,” Ms Pitman said.

“Through their work and leadership, these often unknown Australian changemakers are collectively advancing human progress, protecting our planet, leading medical and scientific discoveries, revealing untold stories, and above all, advocating for equality, justice and human rights.



GLOBAL  
AUSTRALIAN  
AWARDS  
PRESENTED BY ADVANCE.ORG

“From scientists to storytellers, mathematicians to museum curators, business leaders to healthcare leaders, policy makers to sports administrators, technologists to social entrepreneurs - this year's Global Australian Awards finalists are heroes hidden in plain sight. Advance is proud to shine the spotlight on their incredible impact around the world and build deeper connections with these remarkable Australians back here in Australia.”

The Awards are the only of their kind to recognise the contributions of the Australian diaspora – the 1 million Australians living abroad and 2.5 million former international students of Australian universities.

The Awards broadcast will be available to all Australians via YouTube and ABC iView following the event. To learn more click [here](#)

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## **2022 Global Australian Award Winners:**

- **Alumni:** Aisha Jalil - Manager, Women's Game Development Manager, Pakistan Cricket Board
- **Asia Impact:** Anuradha Gupta - Deputy CEO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
- **The Arts:** Tara June Winch - Author
- **Education & Research:** Terence Tao - Professor of Mathematics, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
- **Emerging Leaders:** Martin Seneviratne - Clinician Scientist, Google Health
- **Global Impact:** Gaye Sculthorpe - Professor of Cultural Heritage & Museum Studies, Deakin University
- **Global Talent:** Sonu Bhaskar - Director of Global Health Neurology Lab; Founding Director and Chief Investigator of NSW Brain Clot Bank
- **Inspiring Corporate Leader:** Siobhan Martin - Global Leader Culture, Leadership & Talent, Aegon Asset Management
- **Science and Healthcare:** Barry Kirby AO – CEO and Founder, The Hands of Rescue
- **Social Impact:** Frances Voon - Executive Manager, Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law
- **Sustainability:** Nicole Rycroft - Founder and Executive Director, Canopy Planet
- **Technology & Entrepreneurship:** Seiji Armstrong - Head of Machine Learning, Trust & Safety, Google

## **Overall Award Winner**

- **Global Australian Award:** Terence Tao - Professor of Mathematics, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

## **ABOUT ADVANCE.ORG**

[Advance.org](https://www.advance.org) links expatriate Australians with Australia. We shine a spotlight on their achievements and support them in their endeavours, wherever they are along the international career lifecycle. Advance is an integral part of Australian 'soft power' abroad. By harnessing the potential of global Australians and keeping them connected with Australia, Advance ensures their talent and ideas will flow back into Australia.

The annual Global Australian Awards are central to Advance's mission. We recognise and celebrate the achievements of global Australians who are at the forefront of their respective fields, to inspire future generations and encourage a global outlook. Now in their 11th year,

the Global Australian Awards (previously known as the Advance Awards), are overseen by a Judging Panel of renowned Australians and alumni of Australian universities.

Chaired by Advance Founder and Chairman Emeritus, [Ken Allen AO](#), the judging panel includes [Jillian Broadbent AC](#), [Darren Burns](#), [Michelle Garnaut AO](#), [Alexie Glass Kantor](#), [Sir Michael Hintze AM](#), [Bob Isherwood](#), [Andrew Liveris AO](#) and [Joseph Kwok](#).

The Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, is the Patron of Advance. The board is chaired by Andrew Low and the CEO is Johanna Pitman. A strong network of honorary Advance Ambassadors in the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, China and Dubai provide an on-the-ground network to connect with and support the Australian diaspora. The Advance Asia Advisory Committee, led by Michelle Garnaut AO, ensures that networks are maintained with dispersed expatriate communities and alumni of Australian universities across Asia.