

## Chathra Hendaheva



Chathra Hendaheva is the first Sri Lankan to receive the International Fulbright Science and Technology Award.

In 2002, Chathra was admitted to the Faculty of Information Technology at the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka to pursue her bachelor's degree. During her program, she actively conducted research in machine learning and expert systems. These areas appealed to her immensely, and she felt that they had the potential for application in other areas such as credit risk prediction, financial data analysis and student counseling services.

Chathra has received many academic prizes, including the award for Best All-Around Student-Junior, while she remains active in extracurricular activities. Chathra also received a Performer's Diploma in Pianoforte and Sri Lankan prizes for Music

Theory and Practical examinations. She has co-authored papers that have been published and presented at national and international conferences; was a member of the group which won a merit award at the 2007 National Best Quality Software Awards in Sri Lanka; and received the gold medal for the best Information Technology Graduate of 2002-2003 at the University of Moratuwa's 2008 Annual Convocation in Sri Lanka. Chathra was also a finalist and multiple gold medal recipient at the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants-UK (CIMA) awards which exemplify her interest in linking financial analysis with computer science.

Subsequent to completing her bachelor's degree, Chathra gained experience as a Business Systems Analyst and completed an internship in developing modules for a Free and Open Source (FOSS) system called 'Sahana-Disaster Management System.'

Thanks to her International Fulbright Science and Technology Award, Chathra is pursuing her doctorate in Computer Science at Rutgers University in New Jersey. She is currently interested in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning with applications for the financial sector, and is especially excited to begin her research in machine learning next semester.