

From Ideas to Impact: Inspiring Future Researchers

Hema Subramaniam
SE Dept. FCSIT, UM

BUILDER SUMMIT 2025, organised by the AI Hackerdorm Club, was held on 22 November 2025 at Taylor's Lakeside Campus, bringing together final year undergraduate students eager to explore research-driven career pathways. The event aimed to cultivate a research mindset and encourage students to view academic inquiry as a practical tool for innovation.

A key highlight was the Research Panel Session, "Research Pathways: Navigating Academia & Beyond", held from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Speakers from Universiti Malaya shared insights into how research shapes both academic and industry careers. Dr. Hema Subramaniam highlighted

research opportunities in software engineering field of study emphasising curiosity, real-world problem framing, and societal impact. Complementing this, Dr. Riyaz discussed the interdisciplinary value of data science and its strong industry relevance.

The session concluded with active student engagement, reinforcing that research can and should begin at the undergraduate level. Events such as BUILDER SUMMIT 2025 play a vital role in inspiring innovation, critical thinking, and lifelong learning. A major highlight of the session was the strong interest shown by participants in understanding research pathways after completing a bachelor's degree.

Many students asked practical questions about whether research was only suited for postgraduate study, how early one should start building a research profile, and what options were available immediately after graduation.

The panel addressed the comment by advising to begin by cultivating curiosity, engaging in small research projects, assisting in ongoing studies, and strengthening skills in critical thinking and problem formulation.



Inspiring Research Pathways at BUILDER SUMMIT 2025