DTO + Validation

Data Transfer objects (DTO)

→ It is a simple object used to transfer data b/w diff. layers of an Applicatⁿ.
→ Data transfer from client → Server → client
→ It is a saperate object used only for input/output of API's.

→ DTO is a custom shaped object created only for communicatⁿ b/w your API & outside world

Imagine a restaurant.

- Kitchen (Back-end / Database)
- Waiter (Controller)
- Menu Card (DTO)
- Food (Actual Entity)

🍽️ The Customer never enters the kitchen.

@Valid

→ Triggers validation checks written inside your DTO using annotatⁿ.

like –

@ not null
@ Email
@ Min
@ Max
@ Size
etc.

But !

Validation only runs when @valid is used on the controller method parameter.
→ Used to execute rules set in DTO.

```
@GetMapping  no usages
public ResponseEntity<Student> createStudent(@Valid @RequestBody StudentRequestDTO dto){
    return ResponseEntity.status(201).body(service.addStudent(dto));
}
```

controller method needed for @Valid.

checks for all annotatⁿ

```
@NotBlank(message = "Name cannot be Empty")  4 usages
private String name;

@NotNull(message = "Age is Required")  3 usages
```

if they are being followed or not.

```
@Min(value = 5, message = "Minimum age required is 5")
@Max(value = 100, message = "Maximum age can be smaller then or equal to 100")
private Integer age;

@NotBlank(message = "Email cannot be Empty")  3 usages
@Email
private String email;
```

When to use –

① @ PathVariable – when body contains JSON.
POST, PUT → almost alway request body.

② @ PathVariable – when value comes from URL path
get /students/{id}

③ @ RequestParam – when value comems from URL query parameter.
get /students? age = 20.

Response Entity

Gives control of –
- status code
- headers
- body

→ .ok() returns – 200 OK.
→ .status – use when you want 201, 400, 404, 500 etc.
→ .notFound().build() – shortcut for 404 with Empty body
→ .build() – No body : useful for delete.
→ .created – for POST API - 201 created.

- when creating something → 201

↓

return ResponseEntity.status(HttpStatus.created).body(dto)

- when fetching something → 200

return ResponseEntity.ok(student);

- when deleting something → 204 / 200

return ResponseEntity.noContent().build()

DTO contains –

a) Request DTO – what client can request from DB Eg → name, age, email

b) Response DTO – what client will recieve as per his request
Eg → Id, name, age, email.

→ used in service + controllers.

→ Under DTO we create methods such as MapToEntity & MapToResponseDTO

Return type ↓ method ↓ calls what student can request – name, age, email.

```
private Student mapToEntity(StudentRequestDTO dto){
    Student student = new Student();
    student.setName(dto.getName());
    student.setAge(dto.getAge());
    student.setEmail(dto.getEmail());
    return  student;
}
```

→ creates a new student

→ assigns all those values to new student

→ returns the new student created

Return type ↓ method ↓ → calls student

```
private StudentResponseDTO mapToResponseDTO(Student student){
    return new StudentResponseDTO(
            student.getId(),
            student.getName(),
            student.getAge(),
            student.getEmail()
    );
```

→ Returns the new student to response DTO.