<https://forms.osv.llc/fellowships2025>

Questions in the Interview:  
  
**Tell us about the idea;**

**Tell us about the reason you’ll be the best person to do this;**

**Tell us about the road to scaling this beyond the fellowship.**

Societal applications of AI: Rebuild digital trust. Help foster local leaders to work on solutions to local problems. Then, scale them.

Why should Stanford have all the advances?

[embeddedethics.stanford.edu](https://embeddedethics.stanford.edu)

Why me?

1. Right blend of experience. I can wear many hats with intention.
2. Demonstrable evidence of action from my motivations.
3. I break every system I enter.

# **Main Questions**

### 1) List 3 of your most exceptional achievements

Elected cohort nominee of 41 emerging leaders from 22 countries to present to presidents, prime ministers, world bank and IMF leaders at the Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leaders Program.

Developed an AI tool to detect coordinated inauthentic behavior that resulted in Twitter investigating 0.5 million Russian accounts (some active since 2007) and Meta successfully taking down Bangladeshi ruling party pages that reached ~95 million users right before Sheikh Hasina abdicated.

Trained my undergraduate students in India from a Tier II university (my alma mater) for a year to become technical mentors for my MIT MBA students who said they were "the best technical mentors they have ever worked with".

### 2) What will you work on if you were accepted to the program?

I will train 200 student-researchers from underserved communities in India in the societal applications of AI and equip them with a platform to develop innovative technologies. We will deploy at least 5 systems over the span of a year with local, national, and international organizations enlisted in my project pitch.

***Explain it in 1-2 sentences as simply as possible***

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### 3) Why are you the best person in the world to work on this?

I have spent 7 years working towards creating this program; every weekend since 2017, I have been teaching students programming, statistics, and machine learning. I co-founded (https://djunicode.in) which is now a successfully operating organization training 100+ students per year; then I spun out Unicode Research https://unicode-research.netlify.app which launched our Google-backed ML course training 150 students (https://djunicode.github.io/umlsc-2021); then started a reading group on advanced statistics (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLob0yCmJjJ3XT9DfcQ63ly79ICmgGU5bt); then scaled up the NYU AI School for undergrads from historically marginalized groups, from 2019-24, going from 200 to 3000 applicants globally (https://nyu-mll.github.io/nyu-ai-school-2024/); since 2021 I grew SimPPL and our Fellowships to 35 applicants in one year, winning two international grants from Google, one from Mozilla, making us the only program across the country to have ever done so.

4) Please include your pitch in a video format.

### *(YouTube, Google Drive or Vimeo link)*

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***(Video should be less than 1 minute; please make the video public or unlisted so that we can access it)***

### 5) If selected, what will success look like once the fellowship period ends?

We will have 5-7 projects with their websites, documentation, and open-access platforms available, which a subset of students will team up to work on. We will create participatory research design to engage local civic society organizations to deploy digital tools and we will collect data to monitor their usage and report the outcomes through quantitative metrics that we will report. Example projects include: https://parrot.simppl.org and https://sakhi.simppl.org.

From the training pilot I ran with 35 students from 2 institutions without a recorded lecture series. Through this pilot training program, our student-researchers are leading trainings for fact-checkers in Mongolia, building multimodal analysis platforms for the UN, combating online adversarial networks reaching 100M users on Meta and X, and even spinning out a technology venture advancing digital literacy for mothers in India and Bangladesh incubated with UNICEF. We will expand on similar outcomes as our measures of success.

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### 6) What might failure look like? What could be some of the original mistakes of your project?

If there is attrition among the students then I would end up losing the teams who may have wanted to benefit from the opportunity but could not do so–this would be a failure. It means I would not have ensured alignment with their professional and personal goals if this happens. In order to avoid this, I typically have group office hours biweekly, schedule 1:1s for project planning, and ensure the civil society organizations have a strong connection to the problem that the students are working on. I will also try to bring in guest speakers to keep the students engaged with their respective problem statements. **\***

### 7) Please upload a 1 page PDF outlining your action plan for your project.

[**OSV\_ Scaling a Responsible Computing Training Program.pdf**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TGSioanf_eFMtDyMdoo2RRU8TLz3Fl7k/view?usp=sharing)

***(Font size: 10pt, Font: Arial, Line-spacing: 1.5)***

Click to choose a file or drag here

**Accepts .pdf files**

**Size limit: 10 MB**

### 8) Describe something that you find beautiful in the world.

I like cartoons. I like their simplicity, and fondly remember the good old Cartoon Network and Nickelodeon shows; I'm talking Pokemon, Tom and Jerry, Looney Tunes, and others. The ringing laughter I shared with siblings watching nonsensical portrayals of cat-and-mouse-chases, mad-scientist experiments is pure, unadulterated, universal joy, and to me--a thing of beauty. I used to sketch a lot of cartoons, with some available at https://mehtaver.se/art