
Self-Driving Car Engineer

NANODEGREE PROGRAM

Welcome Handbook



Welcome to Day 1 of the Self-Driving Car Engineer Nanodegree program. Enrolling was just the first step. Today, you embark on your journey to join the ranks of some of the world's first self-driving car engineers. Upon completing the program, you'll be on your way to working alongside the forerunners in this exciting new field. To prepare you for success, we've compiled essential information for this digital handbook.

Congratulations on your first day.

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Meet the Team

Meet the Team

Instructors - David Silver, Ryan Keenan, Drew Gray, Cameron Pittman, Bryan Catanzaro, Axel Gern, Brok Bucholtz, Dominique Luna

Services Lead - Stephen Welch

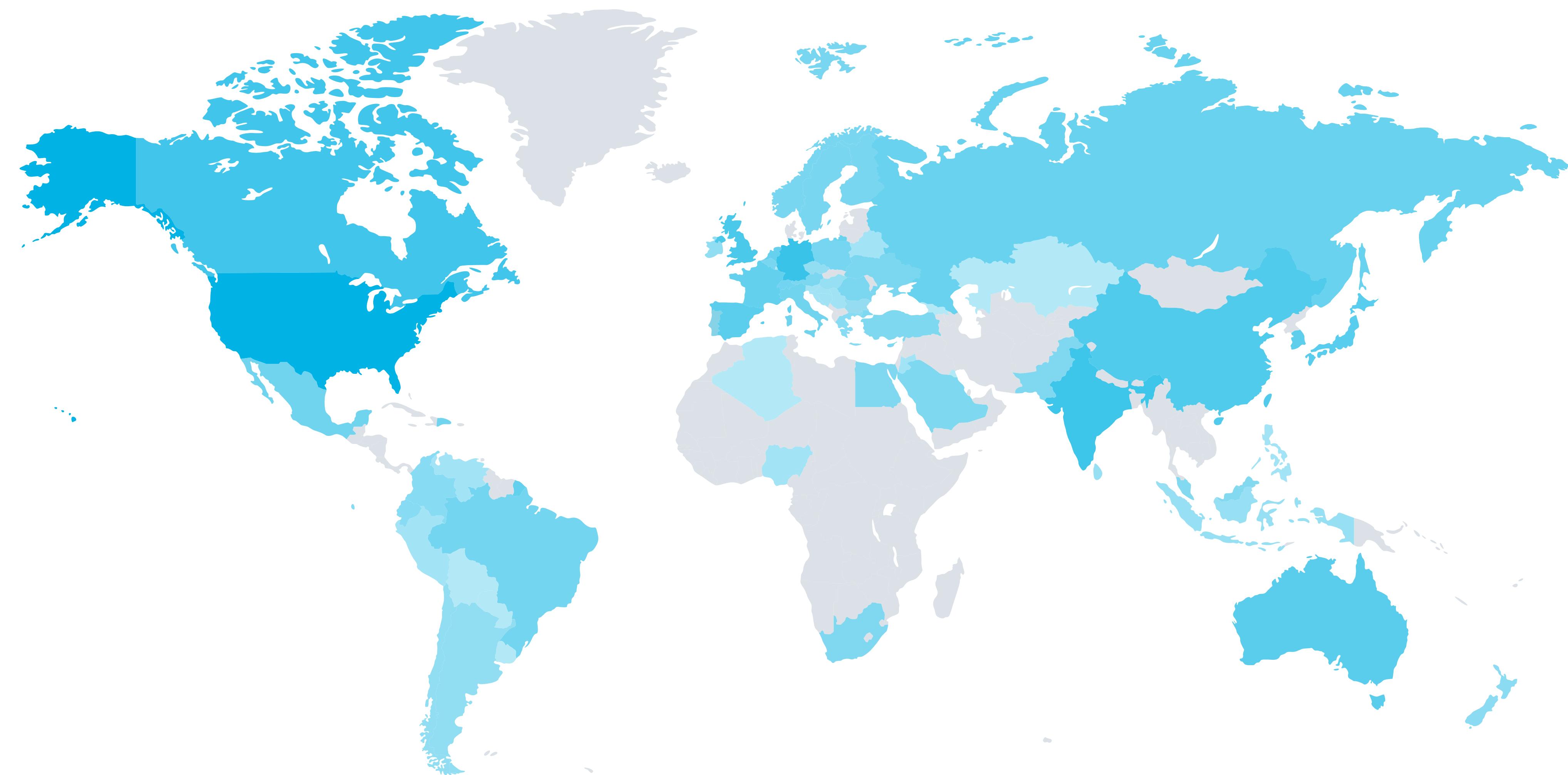
Open Source Self-Driving Car Team - MacCallister Higgins, Eric Gonzalez

Leads - Dhruv Parthasarathy, Oliver Cameron, Jessica Lulovics

Community - Lisbeth Ortega



Where Our Students Are



Your Resources

Your Mentor

Each Self-Driving Car Nanodegree program student gets his or her own personal mentor. This mentor will get to know you, your learning style, and will be able to help you get exactly what you want out of your Nanodegree program.

With Mentorship you'll be able to:

- Get help from your mentor without even leaving the classroom
- Receive 1:1 on-demand support via your personal chat channel
- Stay on track through weekly check-ins

Find Your Mentor in the Classroom

What Projects Will You Build? < > Mentor

Bill Kapsalis

OCTOBER 25, 2016

Welcome to Udacity Self Driving Car Nanodegree! At Udacity we found that when students set weekly goals they get the best results. So, I will be checking in with you weekly to get your goals and discuss any challenges or problems you had the previous week. I will be here to answer questions about the course material or any general Udacity questions. Before you jump in to the material tell me a little about yourself! What is your

Forums

In the Self-Driving Car Engineer Nanodegree program, you'll have access to an exclusive forum. In this forum you'll not only be able to talk to other passionate students, but also receive help from our expert Coaches and dedicated staff.

We monitor and respond to an ongoing stream of detailed feedback from student forum participants, and this has allowed us the opportunity to constantly refine, enhance, and upgrade the model. Thanks to your feedback in the forums, we can ensure the Nanodegree program improves over time.

Find Forums in the Classroom

The screenshot shows a user interface for a learning platform. On the left, a sidebar lists three terms:

- Term 1: Computer Vision and Deep Learning (Started Sep 30th)
- Term 2: Sensor Fusion, Localization, and Control (NOT ENROLLED)
- Term 3: Concentrations and Hardware (NOT ENROLLED)

A red arrow points from the "NOT ENROLLED" text in Term 2 to the "FORUMS" icon in the sidebar.

The main content area displays a course titled "Self-Driving Car: Computer Vision and Deep Learning". The course navigation bar includes a "Menu" button and a "DEEP LEARNING" section. The "DEEP LEARNING" section contains a sub-section titled "MiniFlow" with the following description:

In this assignment, you will build your own neural network library from scratch! Your library, MiniFlow, will behave much like TensorFlow, Google's deep learning library.

[VIEW LESSON](#)

Below the "VIEW LESSON" button, there is a red link text: "Click Here for the Forums!"

To the right of the text, there is a diagram of a neural network with two input nodes (green), five hidden nodes (light blue), and one output node (yellow). Arrows point from the green nodes to the blue nodes, and from the blue nodes to the yellow node. A progress bar at the bottom right indicates "100% COMPLETE".

At the bottom of the main content area, there is another "DEEP LEARNING" section with the title "Introduction to TensorFlow".

At the very bottom of the page, the text "Lesson 7" is visible.

Study Groups

Every student offers their own unique knowledge and skills, and that's exactly what makes forming a study group a valuable resource as you move through the program. There's nothing that quite replaces spending face-to-face time with fellow classmates.

Interested in forming a study group? Start your own by [joining Slack](#), clicking Channels, and posting to the **#study-groups** channel. Post what city you would like to hold a study group session in and suggest a date, place, and time, if possible. Some students organize at local hacker or co-working spaces and some use [Meetup](#) to organize, too.

You can also [complete this Study Group form](#), and we will match you with other students seeking study groups in your area.

Slack

For the first time ever, Udacity students of a single class can interact with each other live via Slack. With a designated private channel for your class, connect directly with students who are online the same time as you: ask questions, exchange ideas, and get to know your fellow classmates.

Join the exclusive [Slack Team for Self-Driving Car Engineer Nanodegree students](#). Once you're in, click on Channels, and introduce yourself on the **#introduction** channel!

Facebook Group

Join the Facebook group for your class for the latest updates from the team regarding community events, special opportunities, and to further get to know your classmates. This is a great chance for you to grow your network and get to know the future Self-Driving Car engineers!

[Join the November Class Facebook Group](#)

Support

Reach out anytime. Udacity has dedicated support for the Self-Driving Car Nanodegree program. Simply reach out on the forums or at **selfdrivingcar-support@udacity.com**.

What to Expect

See our full [Self-Driving Car Engineer Nanodegree FAQ](#) and [general Udacity FAQ](#).

Class Timeline Pacing

This is a unique, three-term program that requires students to keep pace with their peers throughout the duration of the program. Each term is around 3 months. The entire Nanodegree program takes 9 months to complete. Read more on the Term 1 curriculum.

Class Timeline Curriculum

Read all about the [Term 1 curriculum](#) as detailed by instructor David Silver.

Class Timeline Deadlines

There are two components to deadlines:

1. **Deadline for passing all projects:** a Udacity Reviewer has marked your project as “Meets Specifications.” In order to graduate a term, you have to pass all projects by the last day of the term.
2. **Suggested deadlines for projects:** The deadlines you see in the classroom are suggestions for when you should pass your project by. There are no penalties if you miss these deadlines. However, you will be at a severe risk of not passing all projects on time if you miss these suggested deadlines.

Class Timeline Missing Deadlines

Our coaches and mentors will work directly with any students who are struggling with the timeline requirements. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that every single student accepted into the program successfully graduates.

If you do not pass all projects by the last day of the term, the following happens:

- You are not eligible for career services and events with hiring partners.
- You are moved to the previous class and will not graduate with your class. You will only be moved back a class a maximum of once. If you are moved back more than once you will no longer be a part of the program.

Class Timeline Time Dedication



10 HOURS / WEEK

Between instructional content, quizzes, projects, and other course-related activity, we estimate that investing 10 hours/week will enable you to proceed through the program at a successful pace.

Class Timeline Schedule

Find the dates for each of your project deadlines next to the respective lesson [in your classroom.](#)

Nov 28th First Day of Class

Project 1 Lane-Finding Project

Project 2 Traffic Sign Classifier Project

Project 3 Behavioral Cloning Project

Project 4 Advanced Lane Finding Project

Project 5 Vehicle Tracking Project Due

Term End End of Term (all projects must be passed)

There will be a holiday break for all cohorts between December 19th, 2016 and January 2nd, 2017. You will not be penalized for not completing projects during this time, as deadlines are suggested.

Community

Finding support in fellow students can make all the difference in your educational experience. Take advantage of your class Facebook group, Slack channel, study groups, and Udacity forums. These are all spaces to exchange ideas, questions and progress with your classmates.

Community (cont.)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community events will give you the opportunity to meet classmates both on and offline (dependent on location), team-build and take part in extracurricular opportunities.

SELF-DRIVING CAR CHALLENGES

To kickoff the Self-Driving Car Engineer Nanodegree program, we introduced [Udacity Challenges](#). Our goal is to create the world's first open source autonomous vehicle! To do this, we've broken the process down into six challenges that are open to the public and each offer a variety of prizes. While these challenges are independent of the Nanodegree program, we encourage students to participate and follow along. [Read more about the process](#).

What to Expect After Graduation

CAREER SERVICES

With a total of [14 hiring partners](#) for the Self-Driving Car Engineer Nanodegree program alone, students have unprecedented opportunities to become a part of this amazing new field. Begin by keeping your Udacity profile up to date and turning on recruiter access. [Read more about career services here.](#)

STUDENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Continue to be a part of the Udacity student community with your skills. Opportunities include paid positions as Mentors, content creators, and more. [Get in touch with us if you would like to participate.](#)

Policy

COST

The Nanodegree program costs \$800 per 3-month term

REFUND

Students have a 7-day window from the day they receive access to the program, the first day of their class, to unenroll and request a refund. To request a refund, email **selfdrivingcar-support@udacity.com**.

Further Reading

Courses on Udacity

[Machine Learning Engineer Nanodegree by Google](#) (Currently Available)

[Artificial Intelligence for Robots](#) (Free Course)

[Intro to Statistics](#) (Free Course)

[Deep Learning](#) (Free Course)

[Programming Foundations with Python](#) (Free Course)

[Introduction to Computer Vision](#)

Reading Resources

[Transmission.ai - Self Driving Car & Deep Learning Newsletter](#) (Oliver Cameron of Udacity)

[Self Driving Car Employers](#) (Medium)

[Are Udacity Nanodegrees worth it for finding a job?](#) (Quora)

[Udacity Nanodegree Reviews: Your Questions Answered](#) (Udacity Blog)

[We're Building an Open Source Self-Driving Car](#) (Medium)

[In-Depth on Udacity's Self-Driving Car Curriculum](#) (Medium)

[Announcing New Hiring Partners for Our Self-Driving Car Engineer Nanodegree Program](#)
(Udacity Blog)

[Open Sourcing 3½ Hours of Driving Data \(With LIDAR!\)](#) (Medium)

[Open Sourcing 223GB of Driving Data](#) (Medium)

News / Resources

[Self-drive taxis to be tested in Singapore \(BBC\)](#)

[GM buys self-driving car kit startup Cruise, plans to use tech to make driverless cars \(TechCrunch\)](#)

[26-year-old hacker gets \\$3M for self-driving car startup \(CNN\)](#)

[Zoox raises \\$200 million at \\$1 billion valuation for its self-driving cars \(TechCrunch\)](#)

[Mercedes Self Driving Bus Official Commercial \(YouTube\)](#)

[End to End Learning for Self-Driving Cars \(NVIDIA\)](#)

[33 Corporations Working On Autonomous Vehicles \(CB Insights\)](#)

[On the road with George Hotz's \\$1,000 self-driving car kit \(The Verge\)](#)

News / Resources (cont.)

[Trucking Industry](#) (OTTO)

[Self-Racing Cars Kick Off First Autonomous Vehicle Track Day](#) (NVIDIA)

Open Source Projects

[comma.ai for the people to experiment with too](#) (OTTO)

Datasets

[Cityscapes Dataset](#)

[Robot Car Datasets](#)

[Self Racing Cars Dataset](#)

[Self Racing Cars Dataset 2](#)

[Comma.ai Driving Dataset](#)

Other Resources

[Stanford Convolutional Neural Networks for Visual Recognition](#)

[Deep Learning Framework written in Swift to use on apple devices \(written by @amund\)](#)

[Image Segmentation From comma.ai](#)