Cummunity Manager AMA Session - Thursday June 6 (11:00 am)

Notebook:	Secure and Private AI Scholarship Challenge		
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Link: https://github.com/taimurzahid/Secure-and-Private-AI-Scholarship-Challenge/tree/master/AMA%20Sessions

FAQ: https://sites.google.com/udacity.com/secureprivateai-challenge/faqs/frequently-asked-questions

AMA Session

Rules:

1. We will be using a red light/green light system for this AMA. If you see a green light, then that means we're taking new questions. If you see a red light, then we ask that you not post any questions as we need some time to answer previous students.
2. AMAs are not mandatory. These are optional sessions for students who need to clarify their queries.
3. Please reply in the thread if you want to answer or contribute to a question.
4. What is this AMA for: General Questions about the scholarships program.
5. What is it NOT for: Technical Questions. For any queries, reach out to your peers at #tech_help channel.

Questions and Answers:

Q. I wont be able to utilize course due to exams in the coming week. Would that decrease my chances of getting Phase 2 scholarship? Out of 3 months, how many days would my interaction be measured in Slack forums?
A. Hi @Ayush Jain! The course is supposed to be self paced, so you can start doing it whenever you want in the 3 months. Your performance won;t be affected in any way. As for the Slack participation, it's best that you come online at-least once in a day in order to get updated on what's going on here otherwise you will be left behind. :smile:

Q. Since there are students from different countries following different timeline and it's not possible to view all the messages from respective channels. We are missing important tips and tricks and various study material posted by them during their specific hours. Please help us solve this problem.
A. Hi @Abhijeet Rathore! You are absolutely right and not to worry this will be solved soon as soon as we have our moderators assigned up for different channels. Just wait for that. Meanwhile as @Manish kumar suggested, you can always pin and/or star important messages here on Slack. :smile:
@Manish's Response: It's your interest that will tempt you to scroll up all the messages that you missed and yeah we also have slarck for the archives, you can go through them.

Q. I'd like to know how the Course portion of the Scholarship is assessed? Are there any projects with deadline which we have to complete? What constitute successful completion of the Challenge Course?
A. Hi @Musarrat Rahman! You just need to complete the course by 100% in the given 3 months, that's it. Your community participation will be the main criteria here. :smile:

Q. If I get selected as a moderator of channel how will I get to know? Will they mail me or msg. me here in slack?
A. We will announce your names here as well as you will be able to find your info up on our website page that @Sourav just shared. :smile:
@Sourav's response: There will be an announcement for that & it will be mentioned here
https://sites.google.com/udacity.com/secureprivateai-challenge/resources/student-moderators

Q. Will there be any additional lectures assignments be added?
A. Hi @Aarthi Alagammai! There won't be any content addition to the course now. But we are going to have many community activities here, so please wait for those. :smile:

Q. Waiting for reverse AMA!! :smile:
A. Hahahaha @Sourav! That's going to happen soon, not to worry. :wink:

Q. Will additional courses be added with time?
A. No there won't be @Ronit! You will get access to new content only if you move on to the next phase. :smile:

Q. When are you bring back Udacity Pro ?

A. Hi @B V Pradeep! I am really sorry but we are not. We have dropped the program from our structure. :smile:

Q. If I start studying the scholarship 10 days late because of my final exams, will this affects if I serious to win a Nanodegree ?
A. Absolutely not @Gabir Yusuf! You can start whenever you want, it's a self paced program. :v:

Q. @akshit.udacity I am confused on how our progress will be tracked other than the participation on slack and what factors are included in the selection in the next phase ?
A. Hi @Muhammad Husnain! Other than slack and its activities you will be evaluated based on the challenge course completion, for a complete criteria, please refer to our FAQs section here - https://sites.google.com/udacity.com/secureprivateai-challenge/faqs/frequently-asked-questions.

Q. Is it possible to get Slack API access token for this workspace? I have already requested for one! :slightly_smiling_face:
A. I am really sorry but that's not possible @Muhammad Abdullah! It will only be restricted to Udacity staff here for privacy purposed. :smile:

Q. Is propel closing, what is propelx ?? Is this the right place to ask :sweat_smile: (edited) (https://in.udacity.com/propel)
A. Hi @Sarang Suresh Kakkoth! Yes the propel is now closed, but we are going to soon come up with something more exciting. please wait for that. :smile:

Q. Upon selection to the next phase of the scholarship, can we choose between the 2 nanodegrees or is that selected by the udacity team?
A. Hi @Shahana! The selection will decide by Udacity and its staff members, really sorry. But we will try our best to take your views into account. :smile:

Q. Why does forming of whatsapp groups against your code of conduct?
A. Hi @Ayush Jain! I think @Ayush Jain correctly touched base here. Let's not move to some other external community as of now. :smile:
@Ayush Jain's response: @Ayush Jain I contacted @akshit.udacity and he justified it by saying that formation of separate groups will reduce the participation in Slack forums which is against the cause of forming this community. Also as @Rohan Verma mentioned your chances won't increase if your participation is there in other forums instead of Slack. So, it's a reasonable decision. (edited)

Q. Since the start day I haven't been able to login to Udacity, My Classroom doesn't load, I've sent an email to Udacity, no response yet.
A. Hi @Doilio! Can you please DM me your email ID and I will get this checked? :smile:

Q. What happens if I stop using slack and also the course for few days? Will that affect my chances for being selected in the Top 300? Do I really need to use slack and complete the exercises each and everyday?   *I am a FULL-TIME INTERN*

A. Hi @Bhanu Prakash Uchula! You can complete the course whenever you want in the given 3 months, nothing will happen to your performance if you don't study daily there. As for the Slack, it's best that you stay active atleast a few hours in a week to have a good standing to get into phase 2.

Q. What would one get if he isn't selected for the next round except for knowledge? Certificates?
A. Hi @Shubham Thakur! There is no certificate for phase 1 of the program, but you will be able to showcase your success on your Linekdin Profile and we will shoe you how to do that. :smile:

Q. Can I submit multiple forms for moderators for multiple channels? (Maybe two or three at max)
A. Hi @shekharkoirala! Yes you can most certainly do that. No worries.

Q. Is there any industry expert discussions in pipeline right now?
A. Hi @Ayush Jain! Yes there is, just wait for that. :wink:

Q. Any update on Udacity Talent program?
A. Hi @SANMITRA! It;s still under production and will be released soon. Just wait for it. :smile:

Q. All the vast conversations in the slack is very overwhelming to me. Whenever I'm at work or studying, the amount of unread messages keeps stacking up. But this is the main criteria that decides the scholarship for phase 2. What should I do maintain with high pace and how much amount of time should I give each day to be sufficient enough?
A. Hi @Soumya Nasipuri! First of all you don't have to go through everything happening here on Slack. You can use the following steps given below to make the best out of Slack and you would still have a high chance of getting selected in phase 2:
1. Keep an eye out on #announcements channel and check the slack community on a daily basis.
2. Show up for official sessions like #ama_sessions and soon to be announced technical sessions.
3. Just follow the channels & topics that you thin are important for you, no need to stay updated with every channel.
4. Finally, take part in the community initiatives that are going to be announced soon. :smile:

Q. Can we work on application based projects in small groups like we had for the Bertelsmann Data Science Challenge.Can we also have a resource database, so that it's easier to navigate between all the resources being shared and none of the material is repeated. This will enable better monitoring of contributions.
A. Hi @Sanskriti Bajaj! We are soon going to have collaborative projects here as well, just wait for them. As for the channel, we are going to have those too depending upon their requirements. :smile:

Q. The purpose of this course is to learn logic as well as programming or discuss about next scholarship? Because mostly are worried about nanodegree program. :man-facepalming:

A. Hahaha @Avinash Maheshwari! I think this just the initial chatter, not to worry, everything will calm down after a few weeks when your peers will get to learning. :wink:

Q. some suggesting to use google colab, while we use jupyter on this course, can you elaborate the differences?
A. Hi @Daniel Adinugroho! Other than having extra GPU hours, there is no difference. You can take up your program anywhere you want, but do remember to complete it by 100%.

Q. Udacity chapters, local meetups. What do you think ^^ ?
A. Winter is coming @Stark! Let's just wait for the announcement. :wink:
P.S.Bad GOT reference, I know. :see_no_evil:

Q. Can we get internship after nanaodegree.
A. Hi @Neel Patel! I am really sorry but do not promise anything like that, but you are more than welcome to apply for it after the program and we have actually see students getting jobs/internships after our program.

Q. To clarify, does only the selected 300 will have access to Phase 2 contents? Or will there be two set of students like Scholarship and Non-Scholarship?
A. Hi @ZeroesOnes! I am really sorry but only the selected participants will have access to the course material and no one else. :smile:

Q. Will the chosen student moderators automatically get enrolled into the nano degree?
A. No they won't @Samiiha Nalwooga! They too will have to work hard in their role and be active in the community to get into phase 2. :smile:

Q. Do udacity support for local meetups ?
A. Yes absolutely @shekharkoirala! We are going to start them soon, just wait for them. :v:

Q. Will we get any certificate after this course?
A. No we wont get any certificates for this but you can use the course batch on linkedin or use a short line to in resume to indicate your participation.

Q. Does it allowed to discuss the course contents and progress on personal blogs, online forums? Is there any confidentiality restriction?
A. You can surely do that @ZeroesOnes! But for privacy concerns, it;s best that you always accredit Udacity while doing so. :v:

Q. What are the selection criteria for channel mentors ?
A. Hi @JJ! The selection of moderators will completely depend upon their form responses, so it's best that you fill that with complete honesty and seriousness. :smile:

Q. Do we need to post our work in github?
A. Absolutely upto you @Vigneshwari! Just do remember to accredit Udacity while doing so if you are creating a public repo. :v:

Q. Is there going to be a student mentor/buddy program? Where people who want to mentor someone or to get help are matched in pairs? Like 1 to 1 (edited)
A. Yes there will be @Maria! It will be part of our study group program only. :smile:

Q. What will be the final subject of nanaodegree (6 months course) in computer vision or AI?
A. Hi @Neel Patel! It will be either Deep Learning or Computer vision. Depending upon what ND you will get. :v:

Q. @akshit.udacity What is last day for applying for mentor-ship program ?
A. Hi @par! If you want to have a chance in the first wave of moderators, then you should apply to it by EOD today.

Q. @akshit.udacity Since you have been community manager and a nano degree recipient from scholarship programs what is the best advice you could give to everyone of us here.
A. Hi @Mahitej!For me the best and most important part of the program was the community. I am still friends with lots of community buddies and I just love hanging out with that bunch and discussing ideas and projects. So I think takin part in the community will surely help you whether you get selected or not. :wink:

Q. Can we have a resource database, so that it's easier to navigate between all the resources being shared and none of the material is repeated. This will enable better monitoring of contributions as well as easier access.
A. We are going to have one soon @Sanskriti Bajaj! Please wait for it. :v:

Q. Do there have a website to compile pytorch code in online ?
A. You can use the online jupyter notebook files in Udacity platform which is introduced in unit 2 lesson 2. You can run on co-lab.

Q. does asking questions consider as participation? or only answers counted as participations?
A. Both will be counted

Q. will our course instructor join here in our AMA session in future or we have to wait for the coming webinars (if that happening soon!) :smile: (edited)
A. Hi Sourav! I am not sure about the AMA, but we are planning some webinars, so just wait for those. :wink:

Q. I have joined this channel by invitation but i don't know how can i paticipate into course. Could someone please ellaborate, How can i get access to the exercises or course outline ?
A. Exactly what @PRAXS suggested @Talha Malik! You can start off from there. :smile:
@PRAXS's response: Go to your Udacity classroom. There will be Secure & Private AI Challenge show for you. Happy Learning!

Q. How can we manage the slack participation. Sometimes people keep on answering a question that has been answered multiple times

A. Hi @Muskan! First of all you don't have to go through everything happening here on Slack. You can use the following steps given below to make the best out of Slack and you would still have a high chance of getting selected in phase 2:
1. Keep an eye out on #announcements channel and check the slack community on a daily basis.
2. Show up for official sessions like #ama_sessions and soon to be announced technical sessions.
3. Just follow the channels & topics that you thin are important for you, no need to stay updated with every channel.
4. Finally, take part in the community initiatives that are going to be announced soon. :smile:

Q. If you don't get to phase two? what next? No certificate....are there any other further learning opportunities for those who will not qualify for the nano degree?
A. Hi @Samiiha Nalwooga! You will surely get a way to showcase the scholarships on your linkedin profile and for students who do not get selected. We try our best to give them something so that they can still continue their journey. Just wait for that. :smile:

Q. Guys pls do understand that when you are asking questions or answering to any questions, quality is more important than the quantity, pls do make sure that your question or your answer to any question is very clear and more logical, and if some one has answered a question leave that and go for others, and make sure that you don't strain urself being active in slack group, health and exams are first when compared to this program, so give urself atleast 1 or 2 hrs per day or 2 days per week to be active in this group, simply writing some random things in the group doesn't mean that you are contributing to this community, and don't worry about getting selected to the next round as we are here to learn and not to get selected to the next round, just put some effort on your work, complete are course videos, complete all quizzes, and projects, sit back and wait, you will get a good news if you have really done all these things and also don't rush with your course, as there is no award given for the people who have completed the course quickly before the deadline. (edited)
A. Well said @Mr.Robot! :innocent:

Q. What are we supposed to do when our lessons are completed ? They can be completed in less than 1 month. And how will our progress will be tracked of the online courses and are we supposed to complete some kind of quizzes or projects alongwith the online courses?
A. Hi @Muhammad Husnain! You can complete the course whenever you want, only course completion will be seen and nothing else. As for the other factors, do remember that taking part in the Slack community, it;'s sessions and initiatives that are soon to be announced will help you have a higher chance to move on to the next phase. :v:

Q. Can people apply for moderator position after some times(after 2/3 weeks may be)? Or is it just a one time opportunity?
A. Yes you most certainly can @Jaber! We will surely have more channels in the future, you are more than welcome to apply then. :v:

Q. Will udacity accept us if the same scholarship occurs in future?(if we don't get into second phase this time?)
A. Yes absolutely we will @Sohail Gulam! Not to worry. :v:

Q. Will this scholarship performance be considered for getting enrolled into future scholarships by udacity? (edited)
A. I am really sorry but it won't be @Ravindra! :v:

Q. Do direct messages in Slack also count towards activity? :sweat_smile:
A. No they don;t @shahnoza! We do not monitor your private conversations. :innocent: (edited)

Q. How should i proceed with the curriculum if I am a complete noob in ML and AI domain? Should I directly hover over the course videos or should I gain some experience from other courses?
A. Hi @Rohit Agarwal! I think starting with getting started with some basic python ans stats and then working your way through the first lesson will surely get you going. Ans as always, you have an awesome community of peers, you can take help from them.

Q. i was filling the form for the mentorship program and although i had a reliable internet connection , i could not upload my picture . can you check if there is something wrong with the form.
A. Hi @Muhammad Husnain! The form is working completely fine. i am not sure what caused that. Can you please check in after sometime. :v:

Q. What is the mentorship provided by udacity after completion of course regarding the industry exposure..??
A. Hi @Piyush Pragyan! You can find more info on our mentorship program here - https://www.udacity.com/start-mentoring. :smile:

Q. What is mentorship program?
A. Hi @Neel Patel! You can get more information on our mentorship program here - https://www.udacity.com/start-mentoring.

Q. Can we ask question related to deep learning but not related with the specific course?
A. Yes absolutely you can @Avinash Maheshwari! You can take them to #tech_help channel if you want. :smile:

Q. I am not able to contribute more in slack as I am at a beginner level now and not able to answer the queries quickly like others. Can you suggest some ways as to how I should contribute more here in slack?
A. Hi @Jyoti_kritika! First of all you don't have to go through everything happening here on Slack. You can use the following steps given below to make the best out of Slack and you would still have a high chance of getting selected in phase 2:
1. Keep an eye out on #announcements channel and check the slack community on a daily basis.
2. Show up for official sessions like #ama_sessions and soon to be announced technical sessions.

3. Just follow the channels & topics that you thin are important for you, no need to stay updated with every channel.
4. Finally, take part in the community initiatives that are going to be announced soon. :smile:

Q. Is it necessary to keep our course progress uniform? Would someone's chances are reduced for next round if he completes the course in a month instead of 3 months? Just curious how the course tracking works? :sweat_smile:
A. Hi @Ayush Jain! As @PRAXS said, you can take your time to complete the course, you don't have to be uniform about your activity there. :smile:

Q. How are you able to evaluate the quality of answers? Machine Learning? It is too much to do it manually :smile:
A. Hi @Leonhard Feiner! Ooh I think our engineers knew that, that's why we use both. :wink: Whatever gets through our system gets through and if there is something that does not, we evaluate it ourselves. :v:

Q. This summer I have an internship. So how much time do I need to give everyday for courses and slack community for me to learn everything and might get a chance to go to the phase 2?
A. Hi @Soumya Nasipuri! You can give as much time as you can. You don't have to completely active here. Just follow some main topics and channels that you are interested in and keepin an eye out on #announcements channel for community initiatives, :smile:

Q. When will be the selection of scholars for phase 2?
A. It will start from 1st September @Dimple! :v:

Q. Is the Private AI content going to be integrated into another Nanodegree after this challenge? (edited)
A. No its not @Leonhard Feiner! Right now its a standalone course and does not have a supporting ND ahead. :v:

Q. i read that, for participation points in Slack, there's an automated system to track student activity. Do DMs or posting emoji reactions such as a thumbs up to other students count? Does the automated process care about quality versus quantity, and is it counted as participation if you apear for the AMA sessions but don't ask any questions?
A. Hi @robinsonfaitha! The DMs doesn;t count I am afraid, you will have to be active on public channels and yes we do evaluate quality as well using both ML an d human eyes. :v:

Q. Is attending ama sessions is also contributed to phase 2 selection?
A. Yes it does @Nupur! :v:

Q. What you'll suggest to that student who even don't know python? How should they plan to complete this challenge?
A. Hi @Ayan Raj! I believe you have 3 months here, and I am sure you will be able to learn python very soon in them. SO get started right now. :wink:

Q. Channel mentors should have regular "office hours"?

A. Hi @Sophie M! Right now we are not planning anything like that, but we surely try our best to make something like that happen if our moderators will be interested in it. :smile:

Q. Approximately how much time a day, a channel moderator must need to serve his/her duties?
Also, is there any way to nominate ourselves for Technical Moderator role?
A. I think 5-6 hours a week would be more than enough @Vishal Rangras! Most important is setting up an expectation in your channel on when you will be available. :smile:

Q. I just completed "lesson 2"
Am I going too slow ?!
As I can see people posting queries of lesson 7
A. No you are not @Swathi Hegde! You are doing great and you can take as much time to complete the course as you want. :smile:

Q. Most of the replies on questions are just googling stuff and posting the first result.
It's boiled down to a link posting race really.
Will this settle down?
Also, I'd love the people with problems to google stuff before asking. That makes the questions more specific and less generic.
A. Yes I am sure it will @Avilash Kumar! Right now many students are just starting and trust me we have seen this in other communities as more and more students get a hold of the program you will start getting more genuine responses. :smile:

Q. Do we have anyone here in Slack from Udacity stuff other than you!?

& Is it mandatory to have a real profile pic and name here in slack? (edited)
A. Hi @Sourav! We do have other people fromUdacity staff here but they are not active, you just have to reach out to me in case of any concerns as for the profile pic and name, that's entirely upto you. :wink:

Q. The notebooks that I solved and saved in the workspace of the course has some grade or it is only for my learning?
A. Those are self evaluated @Anita, no grades. :v:

Q. I am beginner in Machine Learning.Should I focus on Mathematical concepts and regression algorithms or should I directly use the different libraries without going much in depth of working behind it..??
A. Hi @Piyush Pragyan! You have 3 months here for a small course, my advice, you can take whichever route you think is more suitable to you :wink:

Q. The mentorship program and the moderator form are two different things right? (edited)
A. Yes that;s right @Kush Daga! :v: