First Community Manager AMA Session - Monday, June 3
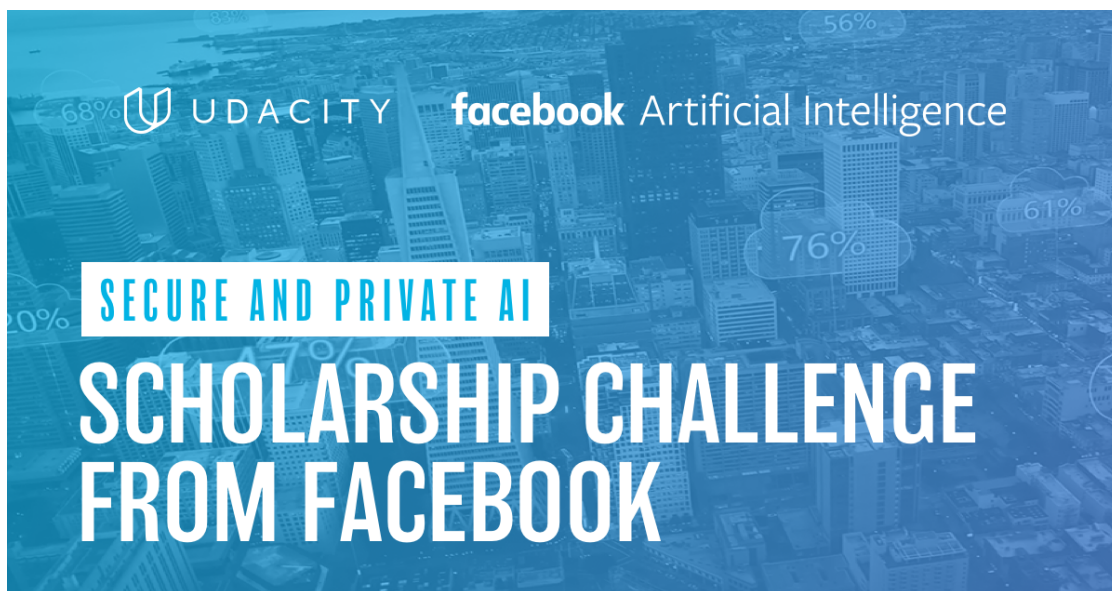
Notebook:	Secure and Private AI Scholarship Challenge		
Created:	03-Jun-19 4:30 PM	**Updated:**	03-Jun-19 6:00 PM
Author:	Taimur Zahid		
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AMA Session - Monday, 3 June

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:

Should we finish the course as fast as possible or we can go easier and take time through the Aug 30? In term of the scholarship selection.

Hi @TK! You can complete the course in your own time. You can utilise the complete 3 months. Early finishers won't be given any preference.

I don't think, fast completion will affect your selection, but yeah it would be beneficiary for you to answer other's queries.

@TK Early finishers won't give any preference in terms of selections but finishing early can help you offer more to the community and help others. So if you can finish early without pressuring yourself, consider it.

I think everyone will try to finish it fast. But just to confirm that we don't need to rush like completing against Usain Bolt. LoL

Yes we need to be active by contributing and helping one another that is the best criteria for selection

I think based on activeness in the community one of the important criteria for shortlisting for next phase.

Hi, I have a few questions about the final Keystone project. How shall we submit the project? What are the evaluation criteria? Can a person submit more than one project, or build one project together with other people? Thank you!

Evaluation criterion would be the challenge project and the contribution to slack community.

I mean specifically for the project.

The project is self evaluated and you don't have to submit them anywhere. For the evaluation criteria to phase 2, please see our FAQs on the Google site here. https://sites.google.com/udacity.com/secureprivateai-challenge/faqs/frequently-asked-questions. And yes you can build up projects together.

1. Will you have AMA sessions with Mat (he isn't at Udacity anymore, but still) or Andrew Trask or anyone who is working in the field (just DL or any of the other secure/private AI topics covered in the course)?

2. How are you selecting student/tech moderators?

3. I haven't skimmed through the content, but is there/will there be any module that discusses ethics in AI? Is it possible for something like that to be included?

4. Can there be **additional** project descriptions/outlines based on the course content that Udacity curates so that we could implement them? Like, provide us with an outline of what we could do, links to dataset, and what we can hope to achieve etc. We can then either implement them on our own or try forming groups. Since many of us are relative beginners, Udacity's input on project descriptions/outlines (not proper projects like the NDs have) could be beneficial.

5. Can we have curated research paper discussions? Maybe from experts in the field? There are people who are working in DL in this Slack who could contribute to hosting such discussions of old papers perhaps?

6. Why doesn't this course/scholarship challenge have a capstone project where we get to implement our own projects and based on the projects you can select people who could be winners for the next phase? I guess it's too late now because you would have had to have some reviewers trained for that because capstone projects aren't like usual Udacity ND projects. (Hence, my 4th point above) **Update:** Checked through the last lesson, and there's a "keystone project" but it's probably not going to be reviewed by any professional reviewer, right? It's just for us to get more out of the course, I guess.

7. What's the basis of considering Slack contribution as a metric for any sort of selection?

Afaik, Slack Analytics doesn't help convey any qualitative information about an individual's contributions. I am not even sure if for a free Slack you can identify which individuals contributed the most, but I might be wrong. This is purely a question from the viewpoint of online education and how these metrics are usually not considered to be good enough (like GitHub commits, for example being used as a metric for measuring a developer's productivity). Isn't this also inducing a bias in the first place in whom Udacity will end up selecting AND also further possibly pushing away those who are less likely to ask questions openly let alone answering them (for any reason - imposter syndrome, general social anxiety, low self-confidence etc). Just curious to see what thoughts actually went to thinking this might be a good idea that's inclusive and encouraging for most students involved.

8. Did previous scholarships have positive outcomes for most students involved? Or only the ones who moved forward through the challenge(s)? Were any outcomes measured since those scholarships/challenges ended in terms of what student's managed to learn and achieve? Just curious how these challenges turn out for students who don't get selected for any next phases.

Hi Sahil! Let me take your questions one by one.
1. We might have guest session every once in a while. But there is surety of that with whom it will be conducted.
2. It's currently underway.
3. Not as of now.
4. That is a great suggestion. I can surely pass this out to our content team.
5. Yes you can surely do that on the #resources channel.
6. Well this is a challenge course and not the actual nanodegree. You will surely have projects in the nanodegree phase 2.
7. Not to worry, for this we have an automated system in place that helps us evaluate your responses. We will be

making use of that and have already integrated that with Slack. The specifics of those has been kept private as we can release them.
8. Yes they did and i am sure you will too.
I would say, till this date there is no given set of rules for ethics in AI ,
It's going to be challenging skimming to each question and answering it. Next time, if you can, consider posting each questions separately over the entire duration of the AMA session.

How are we supposed to submit the projects and how will we be judged?
The projects are most probably to be uploaded on your GitHub profile and then submitted for judgement.
But what if I work on the code online on Jupyter notebook then?
Akshit just replied that they are self evaluated
Askhit's answer: Hi! The project is self evaluated and you don't have to submit them anywhere. For the evaluation criteria to phase 2, please see our FAQs on the Google site here -
https://sites.google.com/udacity.com/secureprivateai-challenge/faqs/frequently-asked-questions. And yes you can build up projects together.
There are several ways of submitting the projects
1.One way you can use the udacity workspace. From that workspace you are allowed to submit the project .
2 .You need to share a zip file suppose if you done project locally.
3. Another way you share your GitHub repository.

You can use any way you want to submit your project

Are there any Projects like in the PyTorch Scholarship Challenge?
As pointed out by @Aniket Mitra! There will be a self evaluated project @Taimur Zahid! :

Hi @akshit.udacity I would like to to know how the 300 top performing students are going to be

allocated for either the Deep Learning or Computer Vision Nanodegree programs.
What criteria are going to be used?

@Samuela Anastasi I would also like to add the fact that there are scholars with us who already have a DLND from previous scholarship program , will this effect the selection process for giving away scholarship for one, who are don't have one ?

Hi @Samuela Anastasi, i have the same question. Please go through this:
https://sites.google.com/udacity.com/secureprivateai-challenge/faqs/frequently-asked-questions

How people will be selected for round 2??

300 people will get the nanodegree for the second round and the nanodegree will be shared among 150 150.

On the basis of course completion and your community participation.

And yeah based on the course completion and community help you give to the people.

It means totally depends on activity in community?

@NiranjanKumar as mentioned in the Google site, the criteria will be your participation in student community, all the factors of selection in round 1 plus if u completed your course within time limit.

There will be a total of 300 students @NiranjanKumar! And it won't be an even distribution, and it will depend upon your skills in the challenge phase and your level experience as to which ND you will get

What about the ones who have already done deep learning nanodegree?
What if they again got the same?
There are two paths available but how do we know which one we will get?

You can choose any one, it isn't randomly allocated.

Hi @Naushad! For those students, obviously the next stage would be computer vision.

What will be the criteria for selection for the scholarship? As someone who's working full time

while taking this challenge, I'm not able to be active on slack as much, will it affect my chances?

They will judge on the basis of quality participation, so try be active as much as you can and atleast answer few questions a day.

slack participation is important as there is no forum for this course. You can be active after your job time mostly at night.

Hi @Shubhendu Mishra! Yes slack participation is important. Please see the complete criteria here - https://sites.google.com/udacity.com/secureprivateai-challenge/faqs/frequently-asked-questions.

Hi @Kaori and @Shreyash Jain, I'm trying, I'm on slack as much as I can, but apart from office I watch the videos and complete the workbooks so not able to catch up on Slack as much

Hey @Shubhendu Mishra I'm a working professional too and I graduated from Google India scholarship. Contributing 10 hrs a week and staying active via mobile app is the best way for people who are working.

How will we get further scholarship for the nanodegree?

Keep an eye on Udacity Scholarship page. You will get updates about scholarships from there.

You need to be amongst the top 300 performers to be selected for the nanodegree scholarship. The selection criteria can be found here:

https://sites.google.com/udacity.com/secureprivateai-challenge/faqs/frequently-asked-questions (edited)

From the 5,000 original participants, 300 will be selected for the full Nanodegree program scholarship based on:

1. Successful completion of the Challenge Course
2. Level of participation and support of classmates in the student community
3. All the selection criteria used in Phase 1

Your peers have already answered this above @Srijan Pabbi!

Is it first come first served? As in do people who finish fast gets it?
It will be judged on various criterias such as how you interact and help the community. How you complete the assignments.
no it is not first come first serve
No...speed of completion of your course doesn't matter as long as you complete it before final date.
you can finish in your own time ...be active in slack, help other's queries
No that's not true! Youc an take as much time to complete the course as you want. See the complete criteria here - https://sites.google.com/udacity.com/secureprivateai-challenge/faqs/frequently-asked-questions

Hi @akshit.udacity
After the slack message limit exceeds we would not be able to see the previous messages. I have noticed that a few people have created google docs and Airtable links to keep track of the resources shared here. Will you as organizers be implementing something so that we have access to the resources and links shared throughout the program even after the slack limit is exceeded?
https://slarck.com/4gXceH/?k=oDnZML9eWIa72UizNVZZ7DFsIpzgBlQ3Tih0Wy5P
Hi @Sabiha Shaik! Please see my latest #announcements on the channel to get your doubts resolved.
Please refer to the slarck archives

Since there aren't any capstone project how will the evaluation work.
This is actually answered in the FAQ section:
What are the criteria for earning a full scholarship for the Deep Learning Nanodegree program?
From the 5,000 original participants, 300 will be selected for the full Nanodegree program scholarship based on:
- Successful completion of the Challenge Course
- Level of participation and support of classmates in the student community
- All the selection criteria used in Phase

Selection criteria for Nanodegree Scholarship:
1. Successful completion of the Challenge course. :white_check_mark:
2. Level of participation and support of classmates in the student community. :white_check_mark:
3. All the selection criteria used in Phase 1. :white_check_mark: (edited)

Hi @Prince Kumar Maurya! I think your peers have given you an apt answer here. :smile:

What are the selection criteria?

Complete all the quizzes, projects and the course, don't leave any of the projects that will make u not to get selected for the next round, and be active in slack
Slack participation and course completion
Selection criteria for Nanodegree Scholarship:
1. Successful completion of the Challenge course. :white_check_mark:
2. Level of participation and support of classmates in the student community. :white_check_mark:
3. All the selection criteria used in Phase 1. :
In short completion , performance, participation
see this they can measure our activity in slack

Already answered above.

Since there is no forum like the ones in the previous scholarship challenges how will participation be judged?
Through our participation on Slack.
But the problem with slack is that it gets too messed up after a point of time.
what do you mean by forum?
Udacity used to have a forum as part of the earlier scholarship challenges.
last year during data science scholarship challenge there was also a forum at Udacity which counted for participation. Honestly, I liked it better than Slack.
@akshit.udacity mentioned : we have an automated system in place that helps us evaluate your responses. We will be making use of that and have already integrated that with Slack

is there any Programming assignments tasks in this course ?
Yes there are jupyter notebook assignments in the lessons.
When you open up the scholarship challenge course on Udacity.
First, go through Lesson 1.
After that, proceed on with *Lesson 2*
Lesson 2 has Workspace. Click on that.
It contains Jupyter Notebook of Exercises and Solutions, which will open up in the tab itself. (I recommend opening that in a new tab)
Follow along with the exercises.
You can even download the notebook from the resources section on the left-hand side of the screen when you enter lesson 2 (if you're on a desktop, with Jupyter Notebooks installed).
Yes there are @Dhruv Patel! Just go through the course to find those.
Thanks , i knew about the notebook assignments , i just wondered if there were any assignments which we have to submit which didn't have any answers right away.

How we can judged ???

Course completion, slack participation and your application when you applied for the challenge.
https://sites.google.com/udacity.com/secureprivateai-challenge/program-overview
@Aniket Mitra how do you measure slack participation?
Reply to people's queries, ask wherever you are stuck.
Please see the complete criteria here @Akash Kumar - https://sites.google.com/udacity.com/secureprivateai-challenge/faqs/frequently-asked-questions

How much my contribution in Slack will affect my further scholarship?
Hi @Shereen ElSayed it's not the quantity but quality of involvement. The more you help your co students the better are the chances to score via slack.
But what if we are totally new in this and we are not of much help?
Hi @Mahitej: Slack is so much crowded with 5K students who want to participate. I really tried but everytime a question is asked, in very few seconds I find several people answering!!! I guess the person who asked doesnt need my help at this point. In addition, some of the questions can be better looked up on the internet before asking, I guess it is part of the learning process and correct me if I am wrong please.
There is no correct number for that @Shereen ElSayed! But it's best that you give appropriate amount of time here while not disturbing your personal life too much. 😄
It is always better to contribute. Slack contribution will help other fellows. One question can clear doubts of many others
1.)Completion of the course and
2.) Level of slack participation
Will judge the results but yeah there is no measurable units unlike physical quantities.... 🙂
I have been there when PyTorch Scholarship Challenge was released. Let some time pass. The crowd will be over in within a month. @Shereen ElSayed
Hi @Shereen ElSayed simpler questions would not need much of help too but when you need to answer a difficult one you surely need some research I feel that. Such

contributions will have a lot of impact of selection to the next round

I think they consider the active participation in slack not only helping to other students and asking queries also. Beacause no one knows everything perfectly. You will try your best to this contribution of this challenge.

I think they consider the active participation in slack not only helping to other students and asking queries also. Beacause no one knows everything perfectly. You will try your best to this contribution of this challenge.

How can I download the notebooks after completing all the exercise?

I believe Jupyter has a feature that can help with that.

go to file>download as>Notebook(.ipynb) of each lesson

Hi @Jettin Joy! You can download the notebooks, using the same workspace you are completing the exercises from as pointed out by @Labiba! :smile:

Go to the *Resources* section of Udacity course under *Lesson* and download the Resources

You can export the notebook.

You can just git clone with the link provided at the starting, and work from there.

In workspace you can go to fine and click on open file then can able to see all the ipynb files and csv all will be there .You just select what you want to download .And then download them.

You can also clone the github link

Will there be a certificate for people who finish the scholarship's phase 1? (Not talking about the nanodegree certificate for people in phase 2).

No

I don't think that we get any certification for the challenge we can post the badge in social media

@Soundouss No certificate but you can post a badge on LinkedIn

Only after entire Nanodegree completion (phase 2)

Depending on your level of completion/progress at the end of the initial Phase 1 challenge course, Udacity may provide you with language you can use to highlight on your

LinkedIn profile.This is a great way to highlight new development experience to potential employers and recruiters. But to be clear, there is no degree offered for this initial challenge course. Rather, students only receive a verified Nanodegree credential after finishing up a Nanodegree program.

No there will be no certificate however we can add badge in our linkedin.

Yes, only after nanodegree.

hi @Soundouss! I am really sorry but there is no certificate for that. But we will show you how you can display this achievement of your on your linkedin profile. Please wait for that.

How can we possibly keep up with Slack when there are 5000 people? I would like to spend more time to work thought the challenge and get experience. Many times when I get to answer to a question by the time I finished typing someone else already answered. I spend a lots of time on Slack reading and learning but I don't get enough time to answer questions in Slack, it is difficult to manage so many people I guess. (edited)

@Linda Kovacs as time passes the community will usually settle and look manageable then. What I mean is people who completr the course will start forming groups for some colab projects and people who have doubts start dwelling in help channels more so then it gets better (edited)

Yeah . Mahitej is right .

A little suggestion. We can couple related questions together to a document which can then be shared in this channel. That way we focus on related topics together

And dont forget, its not just about answering questions. Its about Asking them, about sharing Ressources and ideas, discussing topics and about communicating with others ☺

I think @Mahitej just pointed out the gist of it. You will see that the Slack community will settle down after a while. plus it's best that you only take part in those sections of the community that you think are necessary. No need to go through everything. 😁

@Linda Kovacs Not all 5000 are active at same time.....select the time which is suitable for you to answer query. Also people generally tend to move away from slack after sometime.

Will you be checking our Notebook answers or are these just for us to train with ?
No one will check them. They are self evaluated. Just for learning purpose
It is just for learning and practicing. (edited)
They won't check anything.
No one will be evaluating any of your exercise in notebook. Its just for our learning. (edited)
Hi @Amina Assouane! They are just there to for training and they won't be taken into account. 😄
As of now no one will evaluate but from learning and practice point of view they are very important. So my advice is take notebook exercises seriously.
I guess they are for practice purpose only

Will have to submit a project also at the end of the course and how i use slack for next round selection?
@Nupur hope they will update about the project / technical evaluation process.
I think there is no capstone project for this challenge course.
Be active on slack . Ask questions when stack and answer others questions
Just the projects and lesson work we do in notebook. There is no particular submission. These notebooks work is automatically evaluated.
Contribute more to community
Hi @Nupur! The project are self evaluated and they won't be used in our final one. As for the criteria, please see the complete one here - https://sites.google.com/udacity.com/secureprivateai-challenge/faqs/frequently-asked-questions.

Does slack provides participation analytics of each user to the admin just like it used be before when

we had forums ? And if not , then how will the moderators be able to judge 5k people manually ?
Yes they provide look in the above answers u can find one
Although, slack does provide its own analytics, they have their separate analytics tool already integrated into Slack for measuring the contribution and that would be used for evaluation.
Slack doesn't provide such service but @akshit.udacity sir already told that they will have a separate tool to check the performance and this tool will be integrated to slack to measure your contribution.
As pointed out by @Batman @Ankit Vohra we already have a system in place that is recording any and all of your activity here. Not to worry. 😄
The Udacity team have something set up for that.

1.will you be adding up more content and projects to the course or is the curent one final till august 30. 2.is doing tasks in workspace necessary and part of assesment or can i practise it locally itself
Practice will gives you more experience and clarification about the topics. If you are already more familiar with the contents means, you can complete those assessments easily.
@Siddharth M
Regarding 2. That depends on you of you want to learn thoroughly then you need to do that. You can practice them anywhere like locally or other cloud services
I think that the complete content is already available since you can learn at your own. (edited)
Nope. This is the complete and final content.
That's the whole content @Siddharth M! No more upgrades planned as of now. As for the workspace, you can take them offline as well, you won't be evaluated based off of that. 😄
This question is already answered above.
2. The notebook can be practiced locally and they won't account on your performance.

What are the pre-requisites for starting this course and completing this course?

A little knowledge of Python may help otherwise you can learn the stuffs while doing.
You could start with pytorch course in udacity
python knowledge would definately help
Statistics, linear algebra, python programming and very basic DL, ML technique (not mandatory) , is more helpful to go with the proper flow. @Prateek Kumar Goel
Some knowledge of python like numpy arrays will help you for this course.
A little knowledge of Deep Learning and Python
Hey @Prateek Kumar Goel ! You just need a basic understanding of Python and deep learning as @HastagAB said. But even if you don't have that, no worries, just start going through the materials , take help from the resources shared here and post your doubts. This is an amazing community. Hope this helps !
You should try to keep with the lessons and ask for more resources over slack to get a better understanding. Of whatever you currently know, nothing more is needed.
I've found working through this course first really helpful
https://classroom.udacity.com/courses/ud188/lessons/b4ca7aaa-b346-43b1-ae7d-20d27b2eab65/concepts/9e1364a8-e8b4-4eac-be12-4d44a139f721
Hi @Prateek Kumar Goel! I think some basic knowledge of python and statistics and you will be great to go. 😄
Nothing really. Except for basic programming knowledge in Python and an urge to learn.

Is it mandatory to use Udacity's work space?
Not at all you can use any workspace.
Well, I don't think so.
It ain't mentioned anywhere!
You can use google colab if you want!
Go to the *Resources* section of Udacity course under *Lesson* and download the *Resources*
That way you can work on your own system offline.
(Install Jupyter Notebooks)
It's not necessary to use their workspace. Just Check the boxes after finishing exercises
@Abdelrahman No it is not mandatory. You can work on your local machine or any cloud platform like colab,kaggle

No it's not @Abdelrahman! You can complete them using your own GPU as well. 😁

I have been using Google Colab so..

Do we have to complete the notebooks in Udacity's workspace or is it OK to complete them locally?

I ask this question related to the method of tracking our progress. Perhaps the content of the notebooks will not be tracked at all, but if so, it would be difficult to do it if we work locally...

Udacity don't track progress by evaluating notebooks. Thus you can run code locally or through udacity notebooks. That's your wish, Udacity will provide you some GPU access, and also you can use your own.

Udacity Don't track the notebook progress.

Already answered above by your peers @Miguel Tasende! :smile:

Suppose if two people have similar slack analytics and coincidently have the similar progress. Then how will you break the tie?

The criteria used for phase 1 , will also be used. (edited)

There are plenty other parameters

In such case, they might have some separate rules or judging criteria.

the e-mail address is always different That can be one of the criteria. (edited)

@Rohan Verma: I was just curious about the way they are breaking that tie sir!

Hi @Ashish Bairwa! We have never had such a case in any of our previous Nanodegree scholarship program where we had much higher concentration of students. So not to worry, this will not be the case and even if there will be, we cn surely give an extra scholarship. 😉

I would like to know if the participants who successfully complete this phase and are not selected for the second phase will get some reward or certificates of recognition at the very least. Also,

for those who get selected, will they be able to choose their path?

Regarding certificate. They don't give any but you can add the badge in your linkedin given by udacity. I think they will give the nanodegree based on our experience and knowledge.

For those who are rejected i think you mention this challenge in you resume, but there wont be any certificates provided.

This is my 4th scholarship and no cert for phase 1

You may also get discount for nano degree

Some times you also get discounts on nanodegrees at the end of challenge however there might be mini challenges and prizes for them too.

They may give discounts for nanodegrees.

I think there should be something in the form of reward for anyone who successfully completes this session.

Hi! Can we get some link to more videos/tutorials related to background for this course like prerequisites. This will give an comparable insight to people who are not from Machine learning background but are interested to start a career in this field.

Curiousity is the best teacher. Search for relevant items online or ask them in community channels. There are lesson wise channels.

I think courses in Udacity could help you with all of that. eg. https://classroom.udacity.com/courses/ud188 (edited)

You can check for the resources that have been shared before. This airtable also consists of some great resources: https://airtable.com/shrwVC7gPOuTJkxWo/tblUf4zxlIMLjwrbv?blocks=hide (edited)

@Ishita Chourasia please check 'deep learning with pytorch' course in udacity. Or the second lesson of this course should help. Since the second lesson covers the basics.

thanks! will have a look at them.

Keep an eye on resources thread and of course there are amazing tutorials out that that people on this slack channel are waiting to be asked to get some extra credits.

Thank you so much guys for the resources. You are more than welcome to reach out to your peers whenever you need any help @Ishita Chourasia! :smile:

Generally students write blogs while learning and they make it available in medium.

So it's my request to all the learners to upload there blogs and also to share the handnotes it will be helpful for all

I am just starting out in the field of Deep Learning and because of this I am not an expert hence I may not be able to answers a whole lot of questions. In such a case how can I enhance my participation.

well you could ask questions :smile: and encourage and motivate others

I am also a beginner. I guess the best way is to ask quality questions, and share relevant knowledge with others

What you learned in the process will let you help others. Apparently lots of people are like you and they'll going to go through the same. So by helping each other you'll go futher. Share how you overcome some obstacles and let others do the same, this will benifit both of you.

My only concern is that the people who are experts may be better able to contribute to the community and hence they have a greater chance of going through to phase 2

@Sanskriti Bajaj I have been active in DL for some time but this Privacy in AI concept is completely new to me too. Hence, I was slightly nervous in the beginning too, but I think we should just do the best we can. Start asking questions, answer whenever we can and just gather as much knowledge as possible.

@Sanskriti Bajaj Asking questions and sharing valuable resource and content for reading is also considered as participation

Hi @Sanskriti Bajaj! I really hope that i can say otherwise, but your peers said it. No question is a bad questions so don;t hesitate to reach out to your peers whenever in trouble. :smile: (edited)

It's exactly the same thing for me too! But I think they do count actively asking questions and sharing what you have learned so hopefully we'll be fine :grin:

@Sanskriti Bajaj In the first Facebook challenge I was a complete newbie. Never even heard of DL! Almost never answered technical questions, I just didn't know enough to do so. But I did support my peers a lot and I was involved in helping them have fun and enjoy the ride. Soooo many ways to be involved and 'community participate'. (edited)

I have real time experience in ML/DL but the slack community is quite helpful in clearing out my basics which I sometimes ignore

It's actually a great opportunity to learn because at any moment there are hundreds of people ready to help you with any question you might have :smile: Have fun and good luck!!

You're not the only one who is just starting :slightly_smiling_face: If you were accepted, that means you have the right to be there and that your participation should be valuable.

Don't minimize the impact you can have, you can help people stay motivated, clarify something which was already said, give your own feedback about how you handled the learning etc. In fact, everything could help someone!

@Aniket Mitra I understand you shared that book trying to help your classmates, but you shouldn't post copyrighted material here...

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How are you deciding whether to give the Deep Learning Nanodegree or the Computer Vision Nanodegree?

@Fustincho it's all depend upon you which course you want to chose and more comfortable with

I think they will decide that based on your experience and knowledge as mentioned before.

https://sites.google.com/udacity.com/secureprivateai-challenge/program-overview

if 150 seats of a course fill first then we have to bound to choose the other one though we dont want to do that?

no if all top participants are experts in DL all 300 get Computer vision scholarship. Its been answered at the top

As @Divya pointed out. I have already answered this question above, please refer to that. Plus we will be releasing more information on this soon. Not to worry. :smile:

What Facebook has to do with this Scholarship?
I guess Facebook is the sponsor of the nanodegree scholarships that will be provided in phase 2 of the challenge
A sponsor, a course creator, developer of PyTorch and PySyft. A lot.
Also facebook research AI team founded Pytorch and they contribute a lot for it and made it open source
Facebook AI sponser the nanodegrees, and helps in create the content.
Facebook has collaborated with udacity to provide us with the best of content.
They pay for 300 nano-degree enrollments in phase-2.
Their aim is to help us learn and make pytorch framework popular.
Facebook is the sponsor of this challenge program. They select 300 among 5k and gave the scholarships to them for phase 2.
Facebook founded PyTorch and then open sourced it later. Nowadays big companies like Microsoft, Google, Facebook are contributing regularly in training students. Microsoft conducted a 5day Week of AI recently and here facebook is the sponsor of those 300 nanodegree of phase 2.
Exactly what @Batman said. Facebook is sponsoring these scholarships @Ziad Esam Ezat! 😊
Facebook announced this in their developer summit. Plus PyTorch has some extra special features for us, Fb is the sponser for this course.

Regarding the channels request made, when are we going to get those channels? I think we need a separate channel which follows stack overflow like model with accepted questions and their answers just for future references.
@Muhammad Abdullah New channels are being progressively created. I think it's going to take a while to get

through all the requests but if you are impatient to see which new channels are created click on 'Channels' just above the list of channels and you will see all channels available.

==Thank you so much for the answer @Yemi! Hope that resolves your query @Muhammad Abdullah! :smile:==

@akshit.udacity... Is there any leaderboard to figure out where I'm standing among all 5k participants and to continuously track my performance.

In my last scholarship, there wasn't any. So most probably there won't be here either... Because some things can't be measured with quantities. Rather qualities judge them....

@Aseem Srivastava By my experience there isn't. But just have fun, help your peers any way you can, contribute in the community and enjoy the ride! If you are having fun in the community and being involved you are doing good, I can tell you that by experience.

+1 @Manish kumar @Yemi but still a leaderboard is a transparent view of student success statistics.

PS- Maybe this could be an idea to work on.

I don't think they will because this will drive competition and might lead to dishonest behaviors to get ahead and this is all about community and cooperation. So, I don't think they will do that but let's see what @akshit.udacity says.

Great point by @Yemi , this might beat the purpose and people will try to up their statistics instead of really trying to help the community and learn. Since udacity has done this before, I think it's best to trust them on it.

==I am really sorry but there won't be @Aseem Srivastava! That data is kept private du to privacy and GDPR issues. :smile:==

Don't take it as a cut-throat competition. Your aim should be to learn as much as possible and to contribute and help your fellow peers. If you are doing a good job in that, I am sure you'll be provided a scholarship for phase 2! Good luck! :smile:

If you stay focus on the metrics you'll lose a lot of time I guess. It is hard to be in a doubt period but just be yourself and it'll work fine :slightly_smiling_face:

How you stand out is not defined by quantity (at least it wasn't in my previous challenge)

Could you please reveal more details on how exactly the slack data is analyzed by your automatic system to measure participation ?
I believe they mentioned in faq's that they wont reveal the measurement but Im curious too.
@Maria they mentioned they won't reveal many details on that..but they did say don't just be on slack to earn some point, be there to help others, so maybe they are looking for how useful our questions or answers will be to other students.
Probably some kind of an app which checks the number of messages and reactions achieved on those. Telegram already has apps that do this community engagement analysis
Hi @Maria! I wish I could do that, but the system is completely private and cannot be released for the outside world. I know my word won't mean anything here, but trust me when I say this that it's completely anonymous and fair. :smile:
Secure & Private haha:smile: thanks @akshit.udacity!

Why we are taught pytorch in this course when tensorflow and Keras are much more widely used? what are the benefits of pytorch over tensorflow, keras in industry point of view?
Easy facebook made Pytorch so they are teaching it
@Aryan Singh This is more of a technical question but...
Well, That TensorFlow are more widely used doesn't necessarily make them any better. I have found that both PyTorch and TF have advantages and disadvantages. And just so you know, in the actual Deep Learning Nanodegree we are given extra courses where they teach us to use TF and Keras.
Pytorch is said to be much better than tensorflow for research.
Learning curve of pytorch is not as steep as tensorflow.
If you know python then pytorch comes naturally (quoting jeremy howard :grin:)

Tf also has several advantages. For eg. Tensorboard
Also tensorflow community is well matured. Pytorch is still new
Hey @Yemi although we are connected in Linked however can I ask you if u could guide me better in getting started with Data Science
@Aryan Soni you are skipping out the subject if you stick to a language. And for technical aspect Pytorch is relatively new as compared to Keras , but it is fa more flexible than keras
it seems like I'm unable to mark my progress even though I have done quiet a lot in machine learnimg it doest seems like I'm doing a lot well.
@Deepak Mehra Sure! DM me. I will offer any insight I have. (edited)
Pytorch is made by facebook and this course is offered by facebook
Tf is better for static computation graph problems like CNN, while Pytorch also supports dynamic graphs which are better for RNNs etc. @Aryan Soni the main reason though is FB designed Pytorch and honestly Pytorch is easier for researchers while TF is better for deployment etc and development
@Narahari In the newesz Version Pytorch offically supports Tensorboard too
@Aryan Singh Keras and TF would be taught in the Deep learning and Computer vision nanodegree. This nano degree is sponsored by facebook. They created pytorch. They all have advantages and disadvantages though but being flexible in programming is always an advantage.
@Moritz Schneider this was something new about support of tensorboard
It's the same question why you use R when you have Python. Many things are similar both not everything is same. Also there should be similar options available and at last it should be our choice what we fell most comfortable with.
It's the same question why you use R when you have Python. Many things are similar both not everything is same. Also there should be similar options available and at

last it should be our choice what we fell most comfortable with.

@HastagAB support of libraries and simplicity is much more in python than in R

@Aryan Soni I have worked with tenserflow and keras for quite a while, and now I am shifting to pytorch and I am loving it so far...I think the syntax is really close to what it would look like to build a NN from scratch. So yes industry wise you might be right but people are really shifting to pytorch over tensorflow or keras and I believe this course is a great platform for Facebook to make it more popular in developer community so I guess it's worth spending your time on it.

Hope this query was resolved @Aryan Soni. Please do reach out if you still have any questions. :smile:

PyTorch has some extra special things for us to offer. Building secure and private AI is one of those important things.

Private AI is a concept that can be implemented using many languages and libraries .

It's simple they want to bring more developers to use Pytorch

I think PySyft only works with PyTorch though

@Aryan Soni yes, you can Google ist and you will find, that PyTorch implemented the support. They hired the person who wrote TensorboardX, so it is very similar to this. Problem is up to now that you need the latest nightly/beta build of Tensorboard.

@akshit.udacity Can you introduce your self? :smile: Like what is your interest? (technologically, research, work something like that) (edited)

Hi @TK! You can check the website link that I have given in my intro above. That will help you get to know me more. :wink:

As we don't have any forum this time. Could you give us any advice about how we could gather people into a same project ? I mean a side project to help people learn, it was easy on a structured platform as a forum, but here in Slack ... :s

separate channels will be created upon request I guess

I think we need a separate channel for this

Post it on appropriate lessons channel

yeah, great idea, thanks guys!

@MaevaNAP Try #showcase. I think it's the dedicated channel for side projects. You can post there about finding people to work with. Also, I highly advise you keep an eye out and if you see someone post something about a topic you are interested in reach out by DM. (edited)

Hi @MaevaNAP! Soon we are going to have a many initiatives here that will surely help you take part in extra curricular projects with your peers. Please wait for those. :smile:

I can't wait! Thanks for your answer @akshit.udacity

How will the students after getting scholarship be evaluated for the further courses?

It's in the FAQ:

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

Thanks mate.

Thanks for the link @Hari Govind! Hope this was answered @Rohit Singh! :smile:

Suppose if one gets selected for the nanodegree, do he/she have to pay a small amount for the nanodegree?

I got this question from the Internet.

A guy answered saying that money need to be paid to access nanodegree after succeeding in the scholarship.

No,

It's explained in the FAQ.

https://sites.google.com/udacity.com/secureprivateai-challenge/faqs/frequently-asked-questions (edited)

No, if you get selected for phase 2, you wont need to pay anything.

@Bhanu Prakash Uchula No money has to be paid. The nanodegree provided will be free of cost

No fee at all @Bhanu Prakash Uchula! It's free all the way. :smile:

@akshit.udacity According to you what type of candidates are perfect for the second phase ?
Successful completion of the Challenge Course
Level of participation and support of classmates in the student community
All the selection criteria used in Phase 1
Adding to @Munira Omar! Active participation in the community initiatives that we are going to release soon will also be a criteria @Jettin Joy. 😄

How & When, will the Channel Moderators be selected? @akshit.udacity
I think it is still too early for the evaluation team to point out moderators. It may take some time.
==Hi @Rohan Verma! You will surely hear about both the things soon. Please wait. 😄==
Will the moderators are selected among us(students)?

Could you tell us about who will be the judge/committee on scholarship selection? for ex, guys from Udacity/Facebook?
==Hi @TK! The winners will be selected by the Udacity Scholarships team only. 😄==

Is it compulsory to complete the coding in provided workspace.is it evaluated in the workspace provided?
No they don't evaluation any code which is written by us. They are just for learning purpose
No, as long as it is not mandatory project, its not compulsory but you should really go through them for learning those.
@Nupur As it was mentioned earlier you can complete coding in your local machine or cloud based services they won't be using this as a criteria for evaluation.
==I think the question has been already answered above by your peers @Nupur! 😄==
It is necessary for your practice because they literally ask things that have been elaborated in the video lectures. So, to

test your understanding of the module completed, I think it is worth giving it a try, and besides, if you fail, the community is here to help

Is asking questions and posting articles/memes counts as participating? or do we have to answer questions to get points?
I think anything that helps fellow scholars might be counted as contributions.
helping others, answering questions and also asking if you have anything in your mind. 😄
@Ziad Esam Ezat Posting informative articles is also a participation.
Well, memes do help in understanding concepts easily and remembering certain things. I guess they would be counted?
Hi @Ziad Esam Ezat! Answering your fellow mate's question and resolving their queries will surely be picked by our system as it used both humans and algorithms in the backend. So no memes I am afraid. 😂
I vote for counting memes. They help to stay enthusiastic about studying ☺
It is not about answering questions, you have to guide and help out, otherwise, most of the questions will be repetitions to what others have already put through. But as a learner and peer educator, you can help others understand in simple ways that might have helped you understand better too

When will phase 2 start of scholarship.
approximately after two months.
Sept 15th I guess..
It will begin in the second week of september @Jaffar Jawed. 😄

In previous ND we used to study together by having a random "study buddy" every other week, is there a plan to do this in this challenge?
I think that will be created when the program becomes stable like the previous ND

Yes absolutely there are many initiatives planned @Ramez! Please wait for those. 😄

Is it possible, as a student, to become a moderator for this course? I'd like to be able to help manage the slack so it's better for everyone :slightly_smiling_face: @akshit.udacity
yes students(scholars) are only selected to be moderators, so not to worry and look out for announcements for application
It will come soon. You will be able to apply to compete for being one of the selected moderators. (edited)
Yes it is @Mika! Please wait for an announcement on that. 😄

hi, it was a good idea to start with Pytorch basics. Is there any suggested other Udacity course we can participate in to learn more basic knowledge?
You can go through the statistics course. That will be helpful for this course.
yes we have one course intro to deeplearning with pytorch.https://www.udacity.com/course/deep-learning-pytorch--ud188 (edited)
Deep learning with pytorch course which is free on UDacity
hi @birozso! I think @JDVP REDDY just gave a great resource, you can use that. 😄

Could you please clarify what does it mean to "participate in Slack"? Or better yet, what ISN'T considered as "participation" in Slack?

I have the feeling that many people just spam to simulate participation (e.g., people saying stop, to other people who also say stop to other people who... you get my point).
Participation means you need to involve in the activities of the community. There would be a lot of fun activities during a scholarship. And participating in Ama would be participation.

As this the very first ama_session, things are bit messy as many are confused, but trust me after few days things will get better when all will get used to with rules.
@Fustincho participation should be constructive like asking queries and answering them. Spamming would result into nothing once moderators are introduced.
Yes completely @Fustincho! The system that I am talking about above is both governed by actual humans and algorithms. So only meaningful conversations go through that and not spam messages. So participating in a meaningful way, will actually mean something as participation for phase 2. 😄
Helping give some resourceful information or clear out some misconceptions. So, ask, answer, guide and provide any useful information for the content in question, I think that is the whole ideology behind the community participation.
@Fustincho I get your concern, i am also new here but I believe it would be enough to stick to the subject, ask queries, resolve problems, help others find resources, and share with others something you feel will be useful to them.
I think that's it, I am focusing more on completion of the course and to learn some next level stuff.

I have privacy concerns about Slark. Will everyone's messages be available for the whole world to see via Google search etc?
It seems that it might be. It even says (Public) on the header and I did not have to log in to see the posts or profile photos.

https://slarck.com/4gXceH/?k=0DnZML9eWIa72UizNVZZ7DFsIpzgBlQ3TihoWy5P
(edited)
It's public for the people in the workspace, not public to everyone in the world.
basically only people that have access to this slack workspace will be able to see messages in the public channels. (edited)
messages in public channels will only be on slarck, direct messages wiil not be there so not to worry

Everything you put online can potentially become public. I would assume that in any case ☺

Only public channels ones, not DMs. And only those who have the Slarck link can see.

Hi @Simone! Not to worry. It's completely safe. The Slarck can only be access using the link and the public is just a name that we have given to it. As for the data, it only reveals your display name and you are more than welcome to delete your picture here, until we figure out how we can deal with that part. 😄

how are you going to know if participants have completed the exercises yet some are working on their notebooks offline?

Notebooks are not graded. There are other self evaluated projects which needs to be completed and it's easy to count on them for those who have done it or not. (edited)

@Molefi Gladwil Molise the projects are self evaluated, means you can do them on your GPU or udacity portal..

They aren't a graded one .. so, there isn't any need to know. Self evaluated projects mean we don't have to submit them. They are hence not graded.

your course status must be 100%   viewed

Hi @Molefi Gladwil Molise! We get all of your activity recorded i our DBs. Not to worry Plus the classroom activity is not a criteria to go to the phase 2. Youjust have to complete the course by 100%. 😄

For the slack participation, Does helping your peers in priavte messages also counted ?

In private messages moderator may not be able to know your help. So I suggest you support in the public forum here. There's a #techhelp channel you can use to help technically

I doubt the private channels can be accessed by the mentors.

how beginner is supposed to give ans to majority of questions ? and this will affect his/her performance ?

Hi @Munira Omar! I am really sorry but you will have to be participative on the community channels for your activity to

==be recorded. But that doesn't mean you shouldn't help you== ==peers.== 😁

Thanks everyone for the clarification

Is participation on Slack also being here and reading the messages or just posting my own?
You should help in answering questions to those who need help whether technical or non technical will both be appreciated.
There is no way to find out if a person is actually reading the message. (Might just scroll through it).
So will be based on answers and interaction with the community.
You are also helping other here. So I feel this should count.
I am trying to participate, but I feel, there are many people just posting to post, and I dont want to do that, but am worried it might be harmful if I dont. When I can help I obviously do. :slightly_smiling_face: Also it is very much possible to see, wheather you are connected to Slack, for how long etc.
Dont worry @Sophie M quality of post matter not quantity.:slightly_smiling_face: @akshit.udacity can confirm.
i totally agree with @Aniket Mitra
==Quality also matters @Sophie M! I have already answered== ==this question above on how we evaluate that.== 😁
@akshit.udacity I know about the quality vs. quantity, that wasn't my question, but thank you anyway. 🙂
The question about time spent on Slack can be monitored but it's not a useful parameter to judge.
It can just keep running in the background creating the assumption the person is very active)

Hi @akshit.udacity Glad to see you here. will there be more CMs other than you? In website it is stated that more will be added.
It was answered and I think they are not adding any
==Yes there will be @JDVP REDDY! Just wait for them.== 😉

Since I read that this scholarship is in colaboration with facebook, does upon completion of the full course for those people selected, will have anything to do with facebook? Does the full course will be pytorch only or also other framework?

There are no extra benefits added from Facebook except that its they are the sponsor. Apart from that PyTorch and PySyft are the libraries we are dealing with in this course. Facebook just provides scholarships for the course. I don't think there'll be any further opportunity with facebook based on the course.

Since, Facebook is the sponsor and developer of PyTorch, this will be the only framework that will be taught in this challenge course.

You might try to stand out and make yourself visible as you may never know why Facebook is sponsoring this scholarship

I would advise that you gain much knowledge as you can and make good use of it, you k=never know, you might be called out for that role, so, you have to be prepared.

Hi @Hudarsono! As of now we don't have anything planned with FB. You will surely get access to more frameworks and tools as you move towards NDs. 😄

@akshit.udacity I would also like to put up the fact that there are scholars with us who already have a DLND from previous scholarship program , will this effect the selection process for giving away scholarship for one, who are don't have one ? I mean how would you analyze the quality of contribution of the participants ?

No it won't @par! It will be completely fair for everyone here. 😄

I suggest hard work, because everyday we get to learn new things, whether you knew before or not. I don't think it will have any impact, but tough they could be our good moderators since they have some experience already.

How does the automated integrated system work?? On which criterions does the system focus the

most? How do you filter out the quality over quantity??

That can't be shared publicly.. Whoa that's anonymous,:grin:

Hey @Labiba You can check the questions and their replies above, the system/functioning you are asking for, cannot be quite shared openly.

For those who have questions about how Udacity will going to decide the top 300 for phase 2, please go through this link :

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

I guess that might be the hidden final capstone project for this course. A truly Secure and Private deep learning AI to monitor the Slack Activity. Hey, anyone interested in a side-project? 😂

Already answered above @Labiba! 😄

Sure @Vishwanath, although my earlier question was just for comical purposes. But I guess, we can give it a try. Let's collaborate over this after we finish the course! 😉

If there by any chance can you reveal top contributor of the week in the slack we could learn from them about how to be very effective.

Or choosing a post as a usefull content from udacity team will make us aware what to post and what not to because right now any person can pin their content so we are not able to differentiate which is useful and which is not

This would give us some hint for good participation in slack 😊

See.. If you are willing to help your peers you should help them by clearing their doubts, or providing with some good content on a similar topic. As I said earlier I request all the students to make sure that they are doing this for their interest in the topic and not as a fight to stand among those top 300.

For good participation on slack , Ask for help when you are in trouble and help answering others questions.
I guess this is confidential. They wont reveal top contributors
Yes, @Ankit Vohra is right. They don't want anyone to just message on channels to increase their participation. This is a community where we have to help each other during this period.
I first got selected as UdacityGoogleScholar for Android Nanodegree, I am still part of that community and help each other every day and some of us are good friends too. 😊
I am really sorry but we cannot do that @Balaji Ravi! As that too will be considered as releasing private information. 😄
People are getting too much concerned about slack contribution, let's focus on learning.
Because people might be more focused in spamming Slack in order to get picked because they have a high message count rather then provide actual useful content. 😄

Hi @akshit.udacity,
1. During this course, do we get an opportunity to interact with industry experts?
The mentors are highly qualified and also in slack community there are many learned and expert ppl
Yes. There will be guest mentors and speakers.
Oh great. How can we interact with the mentors and speakers? Will the interaction happen in any of these AMA sessions or is there any separate session?
yes! there are possibilities for that!!
@Venkata Rathnam Muralidharan Mentors are available to interact with and udacity courses usually contain interviews with experts in the field.
Yes, Some Webinars either through Zoom or through youtube will be there for interactions. It will be separate from AMA sessions. 😄
But if we get a schedule for that similar to AMA sessions it will be helpful, because few may miss those sessions.

Do you think that a youtube or discord channel with webinars from skilled students and Udacity teachers could be a good idea?

Why those people have been selected again this time who were among the previous 300 selected students for Deep Learning Nanodegree?
They will ultimately be doing the same Nanodegree which they have done earlier. It might be a waste of a Nanodegree.

@akshit.udacity I hope they will be given computer vision course..

I believe people can choose which nanodegree to go for. They'd probably be wanting to do the CV one, which is why they must've applied, and hence been selected again.

@akshit.udacity already answered this question in a previous post. Please go through posts and faq before coming up with one.

What career path does this challenge lead us to? What challenges will first timers expect from this programs?

https://sites.google.com/udacity.com/secureprivateai-challenge/faqs/frequently-asked-questions#h.p_gZlw-a48iOzm

All library are predefined. No need to start from scratch. We need to understand how it's working and optimization of code

if you know oops then you are good to go, basically some theory of ML and DL may be a hurdle