Scholarship Nanodegree - 6th General AMA Session

Monday, 19/02/2018 - 4pm - 5pm CET

Welcome to another one of our AMA Sessions. A chance for you to ask your community team general questions about the program *for all tracks* and Phase 2 moving forward! Today I'll be joined by @Magda.Udacity and we're excited to answer some questions. Just a few things to note:

What is this AMA for: General questions about the course.

What is is NOT for? Technical questions about the course material. For any bugs, please write to: scholarships-support@udacity.com

Please Note:
- Be sure to read some general FAQs here first before asking questions. -- https://sites.google.com/knowlabs.com/gdnd2017/faq?authuser=0
- We will be using a *red light/green light* system for all of our AMAs. 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.
- AMAs are *not* mandatory. These are optional sessions for students who need to clarify certain thing.
- It will be impossible for us to answer everyone today, but don't worry, we're doing a lot more of these over the next week. You can find the full schedule here: https://sites.google.com/knowlabs.com/gdnd2017/updates?authuser=0

REMINDER:
- **ABND** stands for Android Basics
- **AND** stands for Android Advanced
- **FEND** stands for Front-End
- **MWS** stands for Mobile Web

Translations:

QA on next page:

A few general notes before we start:
We know of some repeating technical issues such as not having a Mentor chat box in some of your Classrooms, and our tech team is working hard to resolve this ASAP.
If you haven't done it yet, please fill in this form and let us know what *bugging* you. :beetle:
https://goo.gl/forms/oG6Y4eWIfJLCIyRa2

- The deadlines are here to help you but they include reviewing and correcting your submissions. It is not obligatory, but recommended to complete projects by their deadlines to ensure you complete the Nanodegree program on time (August 15)
- In-classroom mentors are your coach, ask them as much as you can about the content since they're there to help you. But *please be patient!* It may take them up to 48 hours to reply to you (depending on their timezone and workload), and it may take up to 10 day to review your project.
- Utilise slack/forums, receive help from your peers instead of only relying on code reviews.
- You main priority is the core curriculum, extracurricular tasks or careers are an extra bonus for this course, try and incorporate both as much as possible.
- Students that are not logged in within the first 2 weeks will be unenrolled to give other scholarship students a chance to participate.
- AND, MWS, and FEND have the Career Portal. Android Basics unfortunately does not
- There is no limit to the number of times you can resubmit a project, just make sure that each time you do it, you're closer to meeting the specifications.

QA on next page:

1. When we finish the nanodegree before the deadline, will we be notified if we will receive the diploma?

   You'll get an email with congratulations and certificate.

2. At some point it was stated people cannot receive two scholarships simultaneously. I'm referring to the data science one. This morning something else was stated, so I'm a bit confused.

   As far as we know there is no limitation to the number of scholarships you can receive, as long as you're eligible. But participation in one doesn't improve your chances of getting another.

3. Do I have to pass all the quizzes to finish nanodegree or just accepted projects are needed? I will, of course, do everything but in Phase 1 some answers disappeared and I checked everything at least three times. I wonder if I have to do it in this part as well.

   You need to pass all the projects. If you get stuck on a quiz, you can utilise the support services, but having all your projects reviewed and passed by reviewers is your main priority! Hope it answers your question.

4. In the selection email that says I got accepted is stated: "Per the terms of the scholarship, you have committed to participating regularly in the program and if you have not logged-in and begun learning by March 1 (9 a.m. CET), you will lose access to your scholarship.". What does it mean? is it ok if I manage to watch some videos and don't publish any project by 1st March?

   This means exactly what is says - somebody who hasn't even logged in in two weeks will be unenrolled. We want only people who are really interested in learning and appreciate this opportunity in this program. It says nothing about submitting of projects. Once you begin the course you can do it in your own pace, however the stipulated deadlines are highly recommended.

5. Are project reviewers different from the personal mentors?

Marat: Yes, the reviewers are usually not the same people as your personal Classroom Mentor.

Magda: Yes, project reviewers are different people than mentors. Both roles are there to support you, although they slightly differ – reviewers are there to review your code and give you feedback on it. Mentors, on the other hand, help you to do the project before you even submit it for the review.

6. Can we delete repositories on GitHub once our project has been submitted and passed or do we have to keep them until the nanodegree is over?

Jose: That's a tricky question. I guess that you can but that would create some issues. You will have a profile in careers at Udacity that would link to your project and your project will not be there. That will not be beneficial for you.
Also, why would you want to delete the repositories? One of the benefits of the ND is building a solid portfolio that you can show to potential employers. Adding links to your different projects/repositories in your CV is super important. It is the best way to show your skills.
If you do not want to do any of this, it is not compulsory to publish your projects on github. You can also upload them as a zip, but I would recommend that you upload them on github and leave them accessible for the future.

7. Can we ask for help from the mentor in case we get stuck on any of the projects?

Yes, that's what mentors are for just remember that for both Android tracks, the in-classroom mentor will be available only for the first 2 projects. Later on the students of these tracks will be able to receive mentor support on forums.

8. You said that participation in one doesn't improve chances to get another scholarship. Does it mean that it decrease chances if you are doing another scholarship or it also decrease chances if you've finished some?

No, it doesn't decrease your chances, but also doesn't increase either. What I meant is that you won't have any higher chances or extra credits for being a scholar. So you'll be selected on an equal and neutral grounds with all the other applicants for that specific scholarship.

9. I quote: "That means the a project has to be submitted 1-2 weeks BEFORE the deadline". Will the project be accepted if sent at the last moment?

Yes, this has been answered before, please read the announcements. Except the final deadline, August 15, all the other deadlines are not obligatory, but highly recommended to finish the course on time.

10. My first project passed all the criteria, however I would still like to improve and resubmit it. So far I haven't been able to figure out where to do this, I can only view my submission. How does it work exactly?

Once your project has been approved and accepted, you cannot re-submit it. However, of course you can keep working and improving it, but that would be for your own learning. You can then share your results on the forum if you want feedback from the community and the forum mentors.

11. Is there a grading system, so we know if we if the project was well done or just pass? Do the project have a grade for them affecting the final result of the Nanodegree?

Jose: Projects get only 2 possible results "Requires changes" and "Meets specifications". There is no other grading or difference towards the certificate. In the old days we had "Exceeds expectations" but that was removed long time ago.

12. Will we get study-buddies from donut this time? On the Phase 1 he got introduced in Slack a little bit too late and most people had already complete the course so there wasn't much students could talk about.

You're right, study buddies is a great way to learn, and this time we want to start early with this. The channels already exist: #abnd-study-buddies #and-study-buddies #fend-study-buddies #mws-study-buddies , but we'll officially "launch" it next week, when everything settles down a bit.

13. I upload first project as a zip, but Jose recommend to upload them on github and leave them accessible for the future. so if I upload it again on github how to connect it to my profile in careers at Udacity.

Jose: I do not think that it can be done if you already passed. If you did not pass then you can use github when you resubmit. I would advise to use github as much as possible.

14. Are the credentials for completion given as soon as all the projects are completed or we have to wait for the stipulated dates.

Magda: No, there is no need to wait until the (suggested) deadline arrives – once the reviewer approves your project it will be deemed as passed in your classroom.

Jose: Once you pass all the projects a button to graduate will appear in your classroom. Once you click on it, it will take around 1 week to check everything and receive the certificate.

15. How soon will I be able to get a one 2 one with a mentor about career advice? I have to be careful about putting myself out online too much so I don't affect my current job if you know what I mean.

After you finish the first 2 career projects, you have an option to schedule a 1:1 with a Career Counsellor in the time convenient for you. This is done completely privately on Google hangouts, and this information (as all the information about our students) never gets published externally (we take Data protection very seriously), so you should not be worried about that getting known to others.

16. My project is in review now for 24 hours, *not* pending! All the 24 hours is in review state, is there something wrong?

Jose: Reviews can take up to 1-2 weeks. You ned to be patient because there are many of you submitting the exact same projects at the exact same time and reviewers have a peak.
That does not stop you from moving forward.
If it is like that for a long time then you will need to ask to support or to the CMs to help to see if there is any issue. It is not common but sometimes it has happened in the past that a project gets stuck for some reason.

Marat: As you can very well imagine, our mentors just got thousands of new students they have to attend to, and the same amount of projects needed to be reviewed. They are doing their very best to reply to you all as fast as they can, but they are only humans (to all of you who thought they might be bots :stuck_out_tongue: :robot_face:).
In these first few weeks please be a bit patient and give them some time to respond. Some are very quick, and some might take as much as 48 hours to reply. Depending on their timezone and workload. Most of them actually have a day job in the industry – an that's exactly what makes them into experts in their field and such a valuable resource for you to learn from! :male-student:

As for the project reviews, it might take between a few hours and up to 10 days, exactly for the same reasons. That's why we advise you to submit your projects as early as possible before the deadline. :point_up:

We appreciate your patience and understanding!