

# Application for Admission to be a DToD Fellow

Deadline: **Wednesday, February 14, 2024**, 5:00pm Pacific Time.

## **Eligibility:**

The Digital Transformation of Development (DToD) Fellows Program is open to all UC Berkeley PhD and Master's students in good standing in any field, with a focus on digital solutions to human development challenges in the U.S. and around the world. Interested students are encouraged to apply early in their degree to most benefit from being a part of the DToD Fellows community. All fellows will be eligible for special events, workshops, professional development, internship travel funds, and other DToD program elements.

DToD is a part of the larger Development Engineering program. For PhD student applicants who are also interested in the Development Engineering (DevEng) Designated Emphasis (DE), please check the box below – this DToD application will also serve as your DevEng DE application. More info about the requirements for PhD students can be found on the [DevEng DE page](#).

## **[DToD website here](#)**

## **Tuition and Stipend funding eligibility:**

DevEng DE enrollment is required for DToD PhD Fellows seeking tuition+fees and stipend funding. Funder fellows must be US citizens or permanent residents, per NSF requirements. Note that although Master's and non-resident PhD students are not eligible for the tuition and stipend funding, they can still become DToD Fellows and benefit from DToD programming and apply for travel funds for relevant field work or research internships. Select fellows who apply by the deadline are eligible to get a year of funding, including tuition, fees, and \$34,000 stipend. Strong priority is given in allocating funds to students who enroll in the DE, as this demonstrates the strongest commitment to devoting the student's graduate work to digital transformations in under-resourced regions.

## **Program Requirements:**

All DToD Fellows will be expected to take the following 3 classes, which make up the core of the [DToD Training](#):

- **DevEng 200:** Design, Evaluate & Scale Development Technologies (3 units, Fall semester).
- **DevEng 210:** Development Engineering Research & Practice Seminar (2 units, Spring semester).  
Note: Master of Development Engineering students will take DevEng 203: Digital Transformation of Development (3 units; Spring semester) instead.
- **DevEng 290:** DToD Seminar (1 unit, Fall semester).

Additionally each fellow will be expected to take 1 additional elective that falls within the DToD themes.

## **Application Process:**

Before applying, interested PhD students also applying for funding are required to arrange a consultation meeting with one of the DToD Faculty Academic Advisors. Core DToD faculty list is available here: <https://developmentengineering.berkeley.edu/programs/dtod/faculty>. PhD students not applying for

funding are encouraged but not required to arrange a meeting. Master's students do not need to arrange a consultation meeting.

If you are interested in the Development Engineering DE, it is recommended that you also speak with the Development Engineering Director, Dr. Yael Perez: [Dev.Eng@berkeley.edu](mailto:Dev.Eng@berkeley.edu)

### **Application requirements:**

1. Go over this online form to make sure you have all the necessary information for submitting your application.
2. In this online application form you will need to enter a letter of intent summarizing research interests and any educational or employment background in issues related to development economics or development engineering, and how you intend to focus your research on digital transformations of development. (~500 word limit).
3. Current UC Berkeley PhD students that are also applying for DToD funding (tuition and stipend) should provide a letter of recommendation from a member of the DToD faculty OR their graduate research advisor in their home department. The letter should be emailed to [dtod-deveng@berkeley.edu](mailto:dtod-deveng@berkeley.edu). Students applying to UC Berkeley for admissions should work with their application department's admissions office to see if they are eligible and obtain departmental approval to apply.

Note: The faculty letter could be submitted by the faculty member separately, or by you as part of your package.

4. NSF-eligible students (US citizen or permanent resident) applying for DToD Fellows' funding will check the box in this form and will need to supply information on current financial aid.

Current DToD Fellows who did not previously receive DToD funding (\$34k stipend, plus tuition and fees) and are eligible under NSF rules (US citizen or permanent resident) can apply for funding through this application form. Your letter of intent needs to include an updated statement that summarizes your research interests and how you intend to focus your research towards digital transformations of development. It should additionally describe progress you have made in the prior year towards this goal through relevant classes or professional experience (~500 word limit) and your participation in the DToD program and DevEng curriculum so far.

For any questions, please email: [dtod-deveng@berkeley.edu](mailto:dtod-deveng@berkeley.edu)

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\* Indicates required question

1. Email \*

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Application form

2. Name: \*

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3. Which degree are you / will you be pursuing during the application year.

*Mark only one oval.*

Master's

Master's towards PhD

PhD

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Degree title and home department: \*

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5. Start date of the above degree (semester and year): \*

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6. Expected Graduation Date (semester/year): \*

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7. Faculty Advisor: \*

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8. Sub-focus area of your research: \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Measures for alleviating poverty: Measuring and identifying critical needs for alleviating poverty with data, algorithms, and AI; specifically, developing tools to accurately characterize and map problems of poverty across the globe and provide insights for policy and technology solutions. This research requires a broad scale and work with institutional data and technologies.
- Interventions that integrate the natural and built environments in low-resource settings: digital transformations to provide technological solutions for prediction, adaptation, and disaster relief and resilience of humans and non-humans on earth. This mid-scale perspective focuses on the community or region.
- Improving health and wellbeing of the low-income population: technologies for early detection and solutions of health problems within the context of overall wellbeing. While this perspective may rely on broad, aggregated data, its impact focuses on transformation on the individual level.

Recommendation letter - required for applicants who are PhD students

The letter of recommendation should be sent by your recommender to [dtod-deveng@berkeley.edu](mailto:dtod-deveng@berkeley.edu) by the application deadline.

**Note:** Not required for Master's students or current DToD fellows who are re-applying for funding consideration.

9. Recommender's name

Letter is required for PhD applicants, Master's students please just list the name of the [DToD faculty](#) member whose work is most relevant to the project you'd like to pursue.

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10. Your Berkeley SID: \*

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11. Phone Number: \*

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12. Undergraduate Degree (University and Department/Major) \*

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13. Expected Qualifying Exam date: semester/year (for PhD students)

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14. Are you eligible and interested to apply for the DToD funding (1 year consisting of Tuition, Fees, and \$34,000 stipend) per NSF guidelines funded fellows must be US citizens or permanent residents and must be a student for the entire academic year that starts this Fall.

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes, I am a US citizen or US Permanent Resident interested in DToD stipend funding
- No, I am not interested or not eligible for DToD stipend funding      *Skip to question 18*
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Application for DToD stipend

15. Please provide information on current financial aid and anticipated funding for next academic year.

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16. Are you currently a DToD fellow? \*

(Current, previously unfunded DToD fellows can apply for the stipend through this form)

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No Skip to question 18

### Current DToD Fellows - Progress

17. Please describe progress you have made in the prior year towards your research goals, your course-work for the DevEng DE/DToD, and your participation in DToD program activities thus far.

Please focus on progress, your research interest will be described in the next section. Progress made may also include any educational or employment background in issues related to digital transformations of development, development engineering, or development economics.

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### Academic interests

The DToD requirements are listed on this page:

<https://developmentengineering.berkeley.edu/programs/dtod/apply/>

And the DevEng requirements are listed on this page:

<https://developmentengineering.berkeley.edu/programs/deveng-de-for-phd/required-courses/>

18. Are you enrolled in the DevEng DE? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No, I am not interested in the DevEng DE at the moment
- Not yet, please enroll me through this application!
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

19. Please list the course (or courses if pursuing the Designated Emphasis) you expect to take to satisfy the elective requirement.

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**Research interests and intentions**

(All applicants must fill out the below; current fellows applying for funding are encouraged to update their research intentions.)

20. Please summarize your research interests and any educational or employment background in issues related to development engineering or development economics, and how you intend to focus your research in the area of [digital transformation of development](#). (3000 characters limit: ~500 words)

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## Optional questions

This information is optional and will be used anonymously and agregately in our reporting to funding agencies and not as criteria for selection.

21. Gender

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22. If you are NOT a US citizen/permanent resident, what is your home country:

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23. Are you a California resident?

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No



## 24. Ethnicity

*Check all that apply.*

- African American/Black
- Mexican American/Chicano
- Other Hispanic/Latino
- Native American/Alaska Native
- Pacific Islander
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Japanese
- Korean
- Other Asian
- South Asian
- Vietnamese
- White
- Decline to State
- International

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