



The MIT Master's program in Data, Economics, and Development Policy

Professor Sara Ellison and Program Director Thanh Nguyen

J-PAL | DATA, ECONOMICS, AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY



Jointly led by J-PAL and MIT



J-PAL

ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL POVERTY ACTION LAB



MIT Economics

MIT remains at the top of the economics profession

Five faculty members have
been awarded the Nobel Prize
in the past 12 years.



MIT excellence

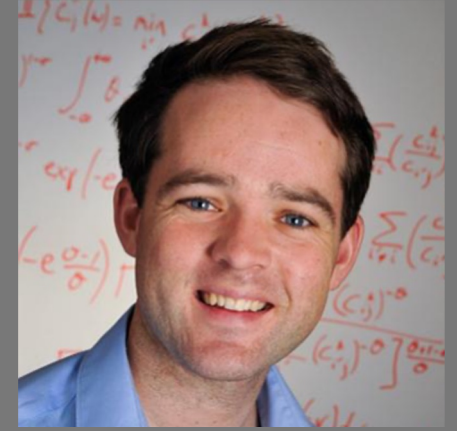
Five current faculty members have been awarded the John Bates Clark Medal. Many others are conducting path-breaking and impactful research.



Daron Acemoglu,
2005



John Bates Clark Medal



Dave Donaldson, 2017



Esther Duflo, 2010



Amy Finkelstein, 2012



Parag Pathak, 2018

DEDP FACULTY DIRECTORS



Abhijit Banerjee



Esther Duflo



Sara Ellison



Benjamin Olken

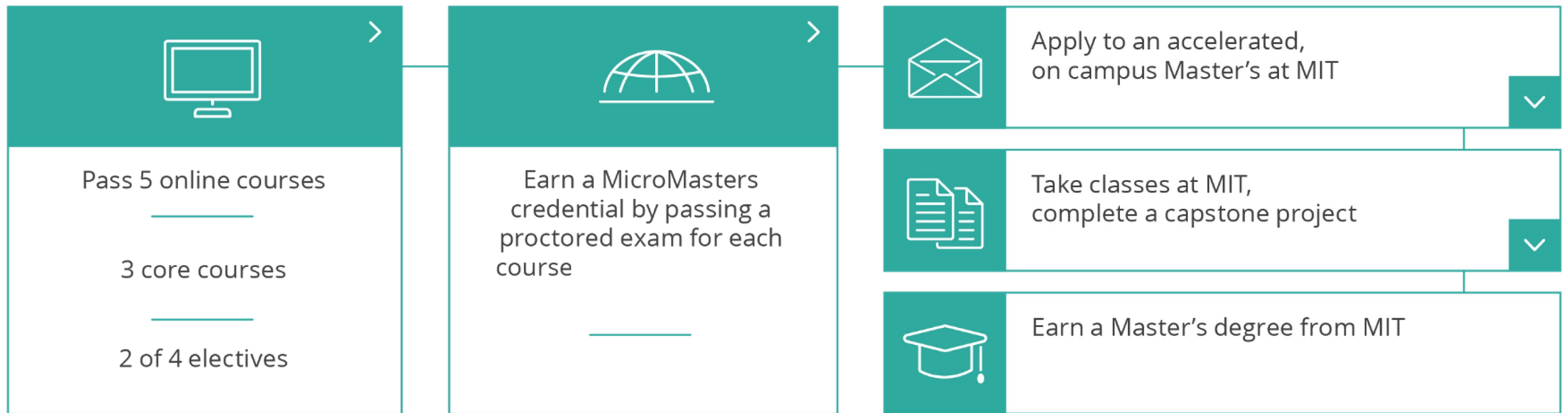
Mission of the DEDP program

To empower a cadre of
diverse, exceptional
individuals with the technical
skills to tackle poverty
alleviation using evidence-
based approaches



DEDP MicroMasters and Master's programs

Unique admissions process both prepares potential students for MIT-level coursework and identifies ones from non-traditional backgrounds.



The DEDP Master's: Tomorrow's leaders in development



A new program: The first Master's program at the MIT's Department of Economics began in 2020 and will train roughly 20 students each year.



Inverted admissions: Only holders of the MicroMasters credential are eligible to apply. Admissions will be based primarily on performance in MicroMasters courses. No degree will be required.



Credit: Students earn MIT credit for their online courses, allowing them to complete their Master's degree in 8 months.



Curriculum: Students spend one semester on campus and complete four graduate-level courses, as well as a summer capstone project.

The DEDP Master's: Application Dates & Checklist

Application Dates for Spring 2023 Cohort: November 21, 2022 – January 13, 2023

- What you will need:

 - Resume/CV

 - Personal Statement

 - Research Statement

 - Letters of Recommendation (2)

 - Transcripts

 - *Unofficial transcripts for all prior university coursework are required to apply. Official transcripts required upon admission.*

- International Applicants

 - TOEFL or IELTS scores

 - *Waiver available for those who have spent 4 or more years studying in an accredited school or university where English is the language of instruction*

The DEDP Master's: Application Guidance

- **What we look for in the review process**
 - Competitive performance in the MicroMasters courses
 - While we carefully review all application materials, we heavily weight MicroMasters course grades in the review process, particularly for the more advanced courses
 - Personal statement
 - Explain why you are a good candidate – describe your relevant accomplishments and experience, research interests, and plans for the future
 - Research statement
 - Present a research topic you would like to explore
 - Describe the motivation, research question, methodological approach, and data you would use
 - Describe how the study would contribute to the field of development economics

The DEDP Master's: Curriculum

- **Spring Semester**

- Students will complete four courses chosen from the following concentration areas:
 - **Microeconomics** (e.g., microeconomic theory, behavioral economics, game theory)
 - **Development Economics** (e.g., political economy of development, advanced development economics)
 - **Data Analysis** (econometrics)
 - **Elective** (to be take in the department or elsewhere at MIT)
- Students also attend a weekly program-specific seminar course

The DEDP Master's: Curriculum

- **Summer Semester**
 - Capstone experience to apply knowledge gained through program
 - Approved internship & project report in lieu of a master's thesis
 - Students in past cohorts worked with a variety of organizations across different sectors and regions, including:
 - RA positions with MIT professors and J-PAL affiliated professors
 - Projects with J-PAL offices and partner organizations such as EPoD and IPA
 - Projects with international organizations like the World Bank

The DEDP Master's: Student Support

- **Program Director & DEDP Team**
 - DEDP new student orientation
 - Weekly lunch seminars to discuss research & policy issues
 - Support with internship placement & capstone project
- **International Students Office**
 - Visa support & international student orientation session
- **MIT Office of Graduate Education**
 - Resources for student finances
 - Professional & personal development
 - Broader MIT graduate community support
- **MIT Graduate & Family Housing**
 - Support for both on-campus & off-campus housing options

The DEDP Master's: Finances

- **Estimated program costs (based on predicted 2022 expenses)**

- Spring/Summer Tuition & Fees: \$29,415
- Health insurance: \$1,802
- Estimated living expenses: \$25,000

Please note: living expenses will vary during the summer semester based on internship placement; the above estimates are based on the MIT cost of living during the internship.

- **Resources for finding scholarship opportunities**

- MIT Office of Graduate Education stipend and fellowship opportunities
- MIT Student Financial Services guidance on finding fellowships
- Home country fellowship programs, employer sponsorships, and your own connections!
- Letters of support from DEDP available for applying to external scholarships

The DEDP Master's: Finances

- **Hewlett Fellowship for students from sub-saharan Africa**
 - Covers full tuition, insurance, fees, and cost of living
 - Admitted students from sub-saharan Africa are eligible and automatically considered
 - Fellowship available for 2024 cohort only
- **Fellowship for students from Brazil**
 - Partial and full fellowships may be awarded
 - Admitted students from Brazil are eligible and automatically considered



Photo: Evan Williams

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A student body that reflects the demographics of the world at large will be better poised to implement change for good worldwide.

Esther Duflo, Faculty Director of the DEDP program

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Incoming Spring 2023 cohort

Master's Program In Data, Economics, and Development Policy
Class of 2023



What our graduates go on to do

Multinational agencies

- Inter-American Development Bank
- World Bank
- OECD

Government and non-profit organizations

- The Ministry of Energy (Saudi Arabia)
- Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (UK)
- Innovations for Poverty Action
- Youth Impact/Young Love

PhD programs

- University of Michigan, MIT

Other

- New York Times, Royal Bank of Canada



Program Website:

tinyurl.com/2knrtw63

Program Contact:

dedp_masters@povertyactionlab.org

Fall 2022 Testing Session:

Dec. 7, 2022 – Dec. 14, 2022

Exam grades will be released before the master's application deadline.

Master's Application Dates:

Nov. 21, 2022 – Jan. 13, 2023

Three cohorts of students have graduated from DEDP!



Photo: Mauricio Mondragón



Photo: MIT Economics Department



2022