



Tips for Requesting Corporate Sponsorship

One of the ways that students fund their degree program is through employer sponsorship. While your company may not advertise that this funding is available, they may have funds available to you if you put in a request.

Beyond funding, employers can also support your degree progress by adding flexibility to your schedule and providing new challenges and opportunities to take advantage of your growing skill set. Having a scheduled conversation to discuss your professional development goals is a great way to help foster support, in whatever form it may take.

This tip sheet offers you some information to help you request employer support for the Master of Information and Data Science.

HOW TO SHAPE YOUR SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

Schedule an appointment.

Plan a meeting with your supervisor or human resources representative. In this preliminary meeting, you should be prepared to discuss the program and identify reasons why you want to earn this degree.

Do your research.

See if your company has an educational benefits program or has sponsored individuals in the past. Familiarize yourself with these efforts before meeting with your supervisor.

Frame your argument.

Consider why you want to pursue your master's degree and make a list of the reasons why earning your degree will make you more valuable to your organization. Be sure your objectives and reasoning are clear and that you are prepared to discuss your plans.

Demonstrate your value.

Think about key issues your department/company is currently facing and align your skill development in the program with these key issues.

Drive action.

Let your employer know that they can speak with a datascience@berkeley Admissions Counselor if they have questions about the program or about the application process.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A Master of Information and Data Science

The UC Berkeley School of Information's Master of Information and Data Science (MIDS) program is designed for data science professionals. As a student, you will derive insights from real-world data sets, using the latest tools and analytical methods to interpret and communicate findings in ways that influence decision making and drive change in a variety of settings.

The program is designed by I School faculty and brings the on-campus UC Berkeley student experience to you through state-of-the-art online technology — no matter where you live.

MIDS Curriculum

The MIDS program features a multidisciplinary curriculum that draws on insights from social sciences, computer science, statistics, management and law. You will learn through a hands-on, project-based approach.

The program's challenging and relevant curriculum focuses on problem solving, preparing you to creatively apply methods of data collection, analysis and presentation to address and solve problems in areas of human interest, government and business.

The MIDS curriculum focuses on the following key areas:

 Research design	 Statistical analysis
 Storage and retrieval	 Ethics and privacy
 Cleansing	 Data visualization
 Mining and exploring	 Communicating results



LEARNING APPLICATION

Part of the value of completing the MIDS degree program while continuing your career is that you will be able to apply learning directly to your work, which is beneficial to you and your employer. This powerful benefit allows you to:

- Develop a perspective that is embedded right from the start on what your company can do with data science.
- Generate the right questions to get answers you can use.
- Increase the speed and efficiency of the products and outcomes of data science that are used at your company.
- Bridge the divide between qualitative and quantitative data, and apply this learning to create holistic strategies.
- Understand how to make data science work for strategic decision making.