



Openscapes Champions is a mentorship program for research groups. Centered around collaborative coding and open science, we meet scientists where they are and help develop habits and mindsets to make data workflows and team culture more efficient and resilient.

Program details

Openscapes Champions is a five-month program that is led remotely, with video calls designed for active participation to ignite incremental and sustainable change within research groups – within the realities of busy schedules. It was developed with Mozilla and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis; the inaugural cohort of seven environmental science research groups completed in May 2019 (openscapes.org/blog/2019/06/12/wins-cohort1).

The Champions Program operates as cohorts of 7-10 research groups, with each research group consisting of 2-5 individuals (24-35 people total per cohort). Importantly, research group leads (faculty, lecturers, program managers, etc) and members (students, analysts, lab managers, etc.) participate in the cohort together so that 1) everyone sees and values what is possible with open data science; 2) leads enable members to invest time in learning skills and developing shared workflows; 3) members have guidance, agency, and support to incorporate open data science concepts into their work; and 4) everyone champions open data science and contributes to growing the community of practice within the research group, institution, and beyond, in whatever capacity their roles and circumstances allow.

Participants engage through two types of video calls: monthly one-on-one Mentor Calls for each group lead, and twice-monthly Cohort Calls for all leads and members together. In both call types, participants set and review goals while building relationships and staying accountable. Openscapes prioritizes establishing trust and a mindset of openness and collaboration, towards creating the culture we want in science, management, and beyond.

Outcomes

You will leave this program empowered with ways to work better as a team and do better science in less time, together. Openscapes will help your team develop skillsets and mindsets around open data science, strengthening culture, resilience, and leadership within your research group and beyond. You will also be part of the Openscapes community with other visible, influential champions for open data science that can help catalyze the necessary cultural shift toward open practices more broadly in science and management.

Curriculum

Cohort Calls follow the Openscapes lesson series (openscapes.org/series), which is framed around Lowndes *et al.* 2017, Our path to better science in less time using open data science tools (nature.com/articles/s41559-017-0160). It is focused on how shared coding practices and collaborative software like R (tidyverse, RMarkdown), GitHub (Issues), and Google Drive can help streamline data analysis and strengthen culture within and across research groups. The lesson series is improved iteratively with each cohort, and in the spirit of openness, the most recent version is always available online.

The 5-month program consists of:

10 Cohort Calls: 1.5-hour full-group video calls with all research group leads and participating members. Introduced topics from the lesson series are discussed as a full cohort and as breakout groups. [2 calls/month, remote]

6 Mentor Calls: 1-hour one-on-one video calls provide a chance for research group leads to ask questions and get guidance on open leadership. Mentor Calls begin the month preceding Cohort Calls to begin discussing group needs. [1 call/month, remote]

1 Champion Summit: 2-day in-person event to convene participants mid-program and strengthen relationships, share lessons learned, and boost momentum. Additional workshop days can be arranged, for example reproducible research with R and GitHub, or metadata and data repositories. [1 event/program, at NCEAS in Santa Barbara]
Note: participants are responsible for travel expenses. We can also arrange to come to you.

Resources & Community Engagement: All materials (lesson series, slides, agendas, video recordings, and more) are available during and after the course at openscapes.org. We will share your stories through blog posts and Twitter, amplifying your momentum and accomplishments and welcoming you as a part of our growing Openscapes community.

Booking

Please contact openscapes@nceas.ucsb.edu for more information about cost and booking. We encourage networks of 7-10 collaborative research groups to book complete cohorts to magnify the benefits of Openscapes mentorship across groups, and to help strengthen the open data science community of practice more broadly within your domain.

About

Openscapes is led by Dr. Julia Stewart Lowndes and operated by the National Center for Ecological Analysis & Synthesis (NCEAS), having been incubated by Julia's Mozilla fellowship. Please contact Julia with any questions: openscapes@nceas.ucsb.edu.

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