How to get started with Open Source Projects and SoC programs

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What is open source?

- [Computer software](#) where the source code is distributed under an [open source license](#) that allows anyone to study, change, improve and distribute the software.

- Promotes collaboration

- Community of dedicated developers

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What is GSoC?

Google Summer of Code (GSoC) is an online, international program designed to encourage university student participation in open source software development.

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What are other Summer of Code(GSoC like) programs ?

Outreachy, Summer of KDE, Rails Summer of Code, etc.

Note: application process almost same as for GSoC.

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Why contribute?

- Absolutely amazing learning experience!

- Sense of achievement

- Hone your developer skills

- Build a strong network when applying for jobs

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Why contribute?

- Spring board to open source world

- For the love of Code

- Stipend, fame and the t-shirt

Am I good enough?

Soft Skills

- Figure out where to go to get help

- Take and respond well to feedback

- Work independently

- Know when to ask questions

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Am I good enough?

Technical Skills

- Install and configure software packages

- Access to a functioning computer 40 hours a week

- Experience using the programming language and operating system.

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Pro Tip: Don't be afraid to apply to projects where you only meet 51% of the listed requirements.

- Include a section on how you'll compensate for or learn the missing skills

- demonstrate during the application process that you are working on acquiring those new skills.

How to Apply

Choosing a Project

- Shortlist

- Ask questions

- Re-evaluate your options

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Making First Contact

- Observe community interactions

- Begin participating in conversations

  - Introduce yourself

  - Ask questions

  - Be humble

  - Don't be intimidated

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Contributing

- Setup up development env - 50% of the work

- Go through the issue tracker and pick one bite-sized issue

- Submit a pr 🎉

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Strong candidates

- Start early!

- Have multiple contributions

- Submit proposal early to get feedback from mentors

Proposal

- Research, look through project

- Be specific about the timeline

- Discuss with mentors, ask for feedback

- Make a prototype! (optional)

Demo with a sample project

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Useful links

- Program Site: **http://g.co/gsoc**

- Student Guide: **http://g.co/gsoc/resources/manual**

- Outreachy: **https://www.outreachy.org/**

- Other SoC programs: **https://github.com/tapasweni-pathak/SOC-Programs**

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2018 Program Timeline*

- **Jan 4:** Organization applications open
- **March*:** Students submit their proposals
- **Late April:** Accepted students are announced
- **Late April-Mid May:** Community bonding period with orgs
- **Mid May-August:** Students code the summer away
- **Late August:** Successful student projects are announced

* Exact dates will be announced in November 2017

Questions?

All the Best!