Google research

Faculty Research Awards program

Google's mission: Organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful.

At Google, we are committed to develop new technologies to help our users find and use information. While we do significant in-house research and engineering, we also maintain strong ties with academic institutions worldwide pursuing innovative research in core areas relevant to our mission. As part of that vision, the Google Research Awards program aims to identify and support world-class, full-time faculty pursuing research in areas of mutual interest.

The December 15th, 2010 round has been postponed to February 1st, 2011.

What are Google Research Awards?

The purpose of this program is to facilitate more interaction between Google and academia and also nurture stronger relations and partnerships with universities. The intent of the awards program is to support academic research aimed at improving information access (defined broadly). Google funds Research Awards unrestricted and retains no intellectual property from the research. We prefer if the results from the research are open sourced and widely published. Awards through this program are for one year in the range from $10K-$150K. Areas that are of particular interest include (but are not limited to):

- Economics and market algorithms
- Education innovation
- Geo/maps
- Health
- Human-computer interaction
- Information retrieval, extraction, and organization
- Machine learning and data mining
- Machine translation
- Mobile

- Multi-media search and audio/video processing
- Natural language processing
- Policy and standards
- Security and privacy
- Social systems
- Software Engineering
- Software and hardware systems infrastructure
- Speech
- Structured data and database management

Award recipients will be assigned a Google Sponsor, through whom they can discuss research directions, provide progress updates, engage in knowledge transfer, etc. Google maintains an academic environment that we would like to share with our award recipients, so we invite them to visit our facilities, to give talks related to their work, and to engage in discussions with our research groups. By sharing new ideas and key insights, we hope that both Google and award recipients will find mutual benefits.

Applying for Google Research Awards

To apply for a Google research award, faculty members should use the following general guidelines for proposal submission:

- Eligibility: Full-time faculty members from universities worldwide may submit proposals describing the research they wish to pursue. Faculty members should submit only one proposal per funding cycle.
- Deadlines: February 1st and August 1st of each year. If the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, it will roll-over to the next business day.
- Applications will be composed of an online form that will be made available over here in mid-January 2011. In addition to completing the online form, you will be asked to upload a single PDF file that includes the following sections:
    1. Overview
        - Proposal Title
        - Principal Investigator (PI) full name, contact information (postal address, email address, phone), affiliation (university, school, college and/or department)
        - [optional] The name(s) of one or more Google contacts: someone at Google who is familiar with your professional work.

- [optional] The name(s) of one or more Google sponsors: someone at Google with whom you are already discussing this proposal. Google will assign a technical sponsor to each approved proposal if you do not provide one.

2. Proposal (maximum three pages, when combined with the overview)
   - Abstract
   - Research goals, including a problem statement
   - Description of the work you'd like to do, and the expected outcomes and results.
   - How this relates to prior work in the area (including your own, if relevant).
   - Please refer to this advice to applicants from the group of engineers that review proposals for this program.
   - Google will not review any proposal containing confidential or proprietary information, so please don't include any such material in your proposal.

3. Budget (maximum one page)
   - The amount requested should be less than $150,000, and for no more than one year. The average amount across awards is $55,000 with the bulk of the awards in the $45,000 to $100,000 range.
   - The budget section should provide a breakdown across major line items (such as student salary, student tuition, PI salary, etc).
   - Awards should usually go towards supporting one or two graduate students for one academic year.
   - Awards are structured unrestricted , and cover direct costs only. Please do not include indirect costs/overhead in the budget.
   - Travel costs are supported sometimes at very modest levels.
   - In very rare cases, some costs of specialized hardware or software are allowed.
   - Renewals for a second year are made upon reapplication during future rounds and are heavily dependent on the quality of the outcome during the first year.

4. CV of the PI(s)

Interested in finding out more?

Please refer to these Frequently Asked Questions for more information as well as how to reach us if you cannot find the answer to your question.

Information about Google research

If you'd like to find out more about some the research done in the past by Google's technical staff, you can visit the Google Research Site. Among other things you will find a list of papers and books by Googlers on a wide range of topics.