



## Frequently asked questions about [University Relations](#)

Please read through the FAQs before sending us your question. The chances are good someone else has asked a similar question in the past and that the answer is included below. Questions cover research awards, [student questions](#), and [general questions about university relations](#).

### Research Awards FAQs

#### **Q: What is the Research Awards Program?**

A: The Research Awards Program is meant to support academic research aimed at improving information access. Another goal is also to facilitate quality interaction between Google and academia and their universities.

#### **Q: Who is eligible to apply for a research award?**

A: We accept proposals from full-time faculty working within universities that award research degrees or from full-time researchers/faculty within research institutes where postgraduate research is conducted that results in the award of research degrees.

#### **Q: Is Google interested in my research topic or area?**

A: Please see the [Google Faculty Research Awards website](#) for a listing of research areas of potential interest. If you feel your proposal is relevant to the areas listed there, feel free to submit it. You can find more information on our program, areas of interest, links to papers by Googlers, examples of research we've funded and other opportunities [here](#) and on the [Research Blog](#). You may find Google contacts through professional interactions that typically occur in conference, workshops, paper publications and personal networking who may be working in relevant research areas.

#### **Q: What is the role of the technical sponsor?**

A: You may think of a Google Technical Sponsor as a colleague who shares your research interest and thus could be your collaborator within the Google technical community. A Google sponsor is responsible for facilitating the two-way flow of information between Google and you. Sponsors are expected to do the following:

1. Provide input to Principal Investigator (PI) on proposal (project) content
2. Act as point of contact for PI for questions related to Google or the project
3. Receive and share with Google colleagues copies of papers produced by the research
4. Invite PI and student to visit Google to give a talk on research results
5. Support faculty referrals for affiliated grad students interested in internships or full-time positions

**Q: How can I find Googlers who may be interested in my research?**

A: The best way to get in touch with potential Google liaisons is via the professional interactions that typically occur in conference, workshops, paper publications, personal networking, alumni working at Google, etc.

**Q: What if I don't have any Google contacts, but I think Google would be very interested in my research proposal?**

A: Having a Google sponsor listed on your application helps us in evaluating the proposal, but you may submit a proposal without having any Google contacts. We will assign a technical sponsor to each approved proposal. If you are already discussing this proposal with anyone at Google, please provide their name.

**Q: How often would the sponsor check in with researchers?**

A: There is no set timetable for when researchers and sponsors touch base. Given that the Google contact and the PI share a common goal, it is expected that they will be in communication on a regular basis.

**Q: When are funding decisions for the Research Awards announced to the PI's?**

A: We typically notify PI's with results about 12-15 weeks after the submission deadline.

**Q: What is the duration of a research award?**

Google Research Awards have a duration of one year.

**Q: When are the starting and ending periods for projects?**

A: The exact project start is very flexible, but we expect the actual work to start relatively soon after the award is given.

**Q: Can research awards be renewed?**

A: Under very exceptional circumstances an award may be renewed for a second year and it heavily depends on the quality of the outcome during the first year. In such cases the PI must submit a renewal continuation proposal through the Research Award application process.

**Q: Does Google have any restrictions on including facilities and administrative costs (also known as indirect costs) in the proposal budget?**

A: Awards are structured as “unrestricted gifts”, and cover direct costs only. We do not support indirect costs. Awards are made to conduct core research of mutual interest to Google and the university, and to support the principals and students who are part of the work. Direct costs include all salary costs of graduate students or Research Assistants/Fellows working on the project, and in some instances faculty summer salaries. Direct costs also include modest travel costs. In very rare cases, the costs of specialized hardware or software are allowed. Google does not cover indirect costs such as building costs, administration costs, and the like.

**Q: Is there any limitation on the number of proposals from a single lab or school?**

A: Since the research awards program receives dozens of proposals from around the world, we will accept only one proposal per round from each PI. The PI should not have applied to this program in the past 11 months.

**Q: Can I submit more than one proposal in my area?**

A: No, please submit only one proposal per submission period.

**Q: What should the three-page proposal include? How short is a short CV?**

A: The three-page proposal should include the proposal itself and a short budget description. If you have additional references, those can be additional pages. The CV does not count in the three page proposal limit, but a short CV should be anywhere from 1-3 pages.

**Q: Is there a possibility that award recipients could be invited to Google to give a talk on their research?**

A: Yes, however this is not guaranteed and expenses may not be completely covered in all cases.

**Q: What percentage of proposals are actually funded?**

A: The percentage of funded proposals varies, depending on budgets, quality and number of proposals etc. We fund approximately 20-30% of proposals submitted.

**Q: What is the criteria for funding?**

A: The most important criteria is the quality of the proposal, in terms of its potential for innovation and impact in core research areas of mutual interest to Google and the university.

**Q: How can my non-profit organization apply for a research award?**

A: Non-profit organizations cannot apply for research awards. We accept proposals from

full-time faculty working within universities that award research degrees or from full-time researchers/faculty within research institutes where postgraduate research is conducted that results in the award of research degrees.

**Q: Who owns the intellectual property generated by the research?**

A: The university maintains the intellectual property, not Google.

**Q: How do I apply for a Focused Grant award?**

A: Application to the Focused Awards program is by invitation only.

**Q: Do you support university research outside of North America?**

A: We accept applications to the Research Award program from universities worldwide.

**Q: I have read the Research Awards FAQs but I still have a question. Who can I contact?**

A: Please send your Research Awards question to [research-awards@google.com](mailto:research-awards@google.com). For general University Relations questions, please see the FAQs and contact information below.

## **University Student FAQs**

**Q: Can my student group visit and get a tour of the Google campus?**

A: Student groups do occasionally visit certain Google offices in the US. You can request a university visit to a Google campus by filling out a [request form](#).

**Q: What opportunities do you have for university students?**

A: You can find information on our programs for students on the [Student page](#) of Google's job site.

**Q: Is my university eligible for the Fellowship program?**

A: We do not publish the list of eligible universities, however direct invitations were sent to the computer science departments and/or Graduate Funding offices of participating schools.

We have separate Fellowship programs for North America and for Europe.

**Q: How do I apply for the Fellowship program?**

A: Students cannot apply directly to the program; they must be nominated by their eligible university.

We have separate Fellowship programs for North America and for Europe.

**Q: How do can I find more information about recruiting, on-campus events, or other non-research topics?**

A: You can visit our site at [google.com/students](http://google.com/students).

## General University Relations FAQs

**Q: I would like to do research on a large data set from Google. Can you provide access for me?**

A: We do not currently have data to share in this way. If data is made available for research purposes in the future, it can be found at [research.google.com](http://research.google.com).

**Q: I'd like to obtain Android phones for my research or classroom. Is there any program I can apply for to have Google supply the phones?**

A: If the phones are part of a research proposal you're submitting to the Research Awards program, please include in the budget the amount you'd need for the phones. Currently, we don't have a program to supply phone donations or discounted phones for teaching purposes.

**Q: I have an idea that I think Google.org would be interested in.**

A: Google.org recently shifted their [focus](#) to engage in engineering projects as opposed to grant-making. For other philanthropic initiatives at Google, visit [Also @ Google](#).

**Q: I have read the FAQs but I still have a question. Who can I contact?**

A: For questions related to university research, please email [university-relations@google.com](mailto:university-relations@google.com). For questions about recruiting, on-campus events, or other non-research topics regarding universities in North America, please email [campusevents@google.com](mailto:campusevents@google.com). If you have questions specific to your region, you may send questions to [emea-eng-campus@google.com](mailto:emea-eng-campus@google.com) for universities in Europe, Africa, or The Middle East, or to [ur-china@google.com](mailto:ur-china@google.com) for universities in China. Please note that due to the high volume of emails we receive, we may not be able to respond to questions or requests that don't fall into one of the categories listed above.

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