

**ACCEPTED.
WHAT IS NEXT?**

Summer of Code (GSoC)

and other remote open-source internships

PART - II

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2024 Edition

Intro to me

(a.k.a. My GSoC Journey)

GSoC didn't limit how many times one can be a contributor (student) back then.

- 2009: Student (Contributor)/AbiWord.
- 2010: Student (Contributor)/OMII-UK.
- 2011* and 2013: Mentor/AbiWord.
- 2014 and 2015: Student (Contributor)/Emory BMI.
- 2016: Mentor/Emory BMI.
- 2019*: Primary Org. Administrator/Emory BMI.
- 2020: Founding Org. Administrator/caMicroscope.
- 2021–2023*: Primary Org. Administrator/Emory BMI.
- 2024: Founding Org. Administrator/Alaska.
- 2011, 2019, and 2023: *Represented the organization at the Mentor Summit.



Got Selected? \yay/

- Don't Panic: **Imposter Syndrome** kicks in.
- Community Bonding Period: You have almost a month before coding starts. (2024: May 1st – May 26th).
 - to mingle with the mentors and the code base.
- More one-to-one interaction with the mentor(s)
 - **Mentors will be** more helpful and available to you.
 - (Because now it is individual mentoring, and mentors want you to succeed.)
- Keep in touch with the mentors.
 - **Let us know** if you are still wrapping up exams. Some countries have exams spanning until the coding period.



Feel free to ask questions

- Don't suffer in silence. Got a question? ASK! Don't wait too long.
 - GSoC-specific / organization-wide questions? Ask me.
 - Project-specific questions? Ask your mentor.
- Pay attention to emails from GSoC/Stephanie. Don't miss important updates/deadlines.
 - Don't rely on the mentor or your mentoring organization to monitor the GSoC-wide deadlines for you (although we try to remind you).
- Tax issues, Payneer account creation issues, work visa issues.
 - Make sure to handle those on time. (We cannot help you with that).



Everyone can win

- Contributors fail because they disappear or they simply don't put a genuine effort into completing the project with the expected time contribution (350 hours).
 - Good idea to log your time for your own reference.
 - Blog about your experience! It helps others.
- Last year's GSoC success rate (across the accepted contributors): 95%.
- There is no real competition.
 - Getting accepted is the competition.
- Now all you need is genuine work.
 - Collaborate! Not compete.



Set the motivations right and your goals **long-term**

- GSoC is **not** about money.
 - 6000\$/350 hours (~17\$/hour) in the US or **3000**\$/350 hours in India, Egypt, Nigeria, ...
- More about experience, success, and long-term collaborations.
- You could be a first-author in a paper you write with us based on your GSoC, or be a co-author in your mentor's paper.
- **But remember, still GSoC is a software development program.**
 - **You need to code and have it open-source.**
- **Reference letters and employment opportunities.**



GSoC Community Bonding Period

- Learn more about the organization, the project, and the project idea.
 - Go through the...
 - code base
 - Documentation.
 - Coding styles and coding guidelines.
- Communicate often (and meaningfully).
- Understand the project idea more.
 - Come up with a design.
 - Start with simple fixes and incremental development.



Coding..

Easiest task of all.. ;)

- Commit **daily**
 - Direct commits if given committership.
 - Otherwise, commits to your own fork of the repository.
 - Send frequent pull requests. Weekly?
- Meaningful Commit messages.
 - Get feedback from the mentor(s).
 - Keep the mentor updated
 - Daily → Weekly.
- Follow the coding styles and best practices.
 - Ask your mentor.
- Commit only the necessary files and minimal changes.
- Plan for the mid and final evaluations early with the mentor.



No missed evaluations for whatever reason

- Submit early (Immediately after the evaluations open. They remain open for <week).
 - Anticipate: earthquakes, mega-tsunami, civil unrest, Internet censorship, power cuts, ...
- **One** (unified/single) evaluation comes from the mentor(s), and one from the contributor.
 - Both the contributor and the mentor must submit the evaluations.
- Timeline:
 - Mid-term evaluation comes in a month.
 - Final evaluations, the last week of coding.
- Extensions in increments of two weeks possible:
 - From the default 12-weeks to 22-weeks.
 - If you and the mentor decide you need an extension, please let me (the org admin) know before the evaluation week. I can extend the length of the project.
 - <https://developers.google.com/open-source/gsoc/help/project-dates>



Long term success stories

- Contributor → Mentor → Org-Admin.
- Reference letters for grad school.
 - Half of my GSoC mentees since 2019 are now in (or accepted to) grad school.
 - Georgia Tech, UIC, ...
 - Apply in Sep → Jan for 2025 Fall (August) intake.
- Stronger CV:
 - Microsoft, Google, ...
- Contributor → Employee
 - Postdoctoral Researcher, Software Engineer, ...





Questions?
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