ACCEPTED.
WHAT IS NEXT?

Summer of Code (GSoC)
and other remote open-source internships
PART - II

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2025 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* – Present: Founding Org. Administrator/Alaska.

- 2011, 2019, 2023, and 2024: *Represented the organization at the Mentor Summit.

Got Selected? \yay/

- # Celebrate!

- # Don't Panic.

  - Imposter Syndrome kicks in.

Got Selected? *\yay/*

- 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

- <mark>Don't suffer in silence. Got a question? ASK! Don't wait too long.</mark>
  - 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 <mark>daily</mark>
  - 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, …

In loving memories of
Dr. Ashish Sharma (Emory University)

https://med.emory.edu/departments/biomedical-informatics/people/ashish-memorial-page.html

Questions?
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