

Google Summer of Code (GSoC) is a highly prestigious, 12+ week online program where you are paid a stipend to contribute to open-source organizations. Since it is currently late **December 2025**, you are in the perfect "pre-application" window to prepare for GSoC 2026.

Phase 1: Preparation (December – January)

Success in GSoC is 80% preparation. You need to build a "proof of work" before the official organization list is even released.

- **Master the Tools:** Ensure you are proficient with **Git and GitHub**. You should be comfortable with forking, cloning, branching, and creating Pull Requests (PRs).
 - **Build Your Profile:** Start making minor contributions to any open-source project. Look for the **good first issue** label on GitHub.
 - **Identify Your Tech Stack:** Decide whether you want to work on Web Development (React/Node), Systems (C++/Rust), AI/ML (Python), or Mobile (Flutter/Kotlin).
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Phase 2: Organization Selection (February 19 onwards)

On **February 19, 2026**, Google will announce the official list of mentoring organizations.

- **Shortlist 2–3 Organizations:** Filter organizations by your tech stack on the [GSoC website](#). Don't pick more than 3, as you'll need to focus your efforts.
 - **Join the Community:** Find their communication channels (Discord, Slack, or Mailing Lists). Introduce yourself politely:
"Hi, I'm [Name], a student interested in [Project Idea]. I have experience in [Tech Stack] and have already looked at the codebase."
 - **Study the "Idea List":** Each organization publishes a list of projects they want built. Pick one that matches your skills.
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Phase 3: The Proposal Period (March 16 – March 31)

This is the actual application phase. You can submit up to **three** proposals.

- **Draft Early:** Don't wait until the deadline. Share a draft with the mentors in their chat channels to get feedback.
 - **The Anatomy of a Winning Proposal:**
 - **Synopsis:** A 50-word summary of your project.
 - **Technical Breakdown:** Explain exactly *how* you will solve the problem (which libraries, which files you'll modify).
 - **Detailed Timeline:** A week-by-week breakdown of your 12-week coding period.
 - **Biographical Info:** Your relevant experience and previous contributions to the project.
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Phase 4: The Program (May – August)

If you are accepted (announced **April 30, 2026**), the work begins:

1. **Community Bonding (May 1–24):** Set up your development environment, meet your mentor, and finalize your project milestones.
2. **Coding Period (May 25 onwards):** You will code for 12 to 22 weeks depending on your project size.
3. **Evaluations:** There are two evaluations (Mid-term and Final). You must pass these to receive your stipend payments.



Stipends for 2026

GSoC stipends are paid in two parts and are adjusted based on your country's cost of living.

- **Medium Projects (~175 hours):** Estimated ~\$1,500 USD (in India) / ~\$3,000 USD (in USA).
- **Large Projects (~350 hours):** Estimated ~\$3,000 USD (in India) / ~\$6,000 USD (in USA).