

**Outreachy** is one of the most unique and inclusive open-source programs. It provides **three-month paid internships** specifically for people who face under-representation, systemic bias, or discrimination in the tech industry.

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## The Two Annual Cohorts

Outreachy runs twice a year:

1. **Mid-Year:** May to August (Applications usually open in January).
2. **End-of-Year:** December to March (Applications usually open in August).



## Step-by-Step Guide to the Process

### 1. Initial Application (The Eligibility Phase)

Before you look at projects, you must pass an initial screening.

- **The Essay:** You will write four short essays about your background and the hurdles you've faced in tech.
- **The Goal:** Outreachy wants to know why you need this opportunity. Be honest and authentic.
- **Timeline:** For the May cohort, this usually happens in **January/February**.

### 2. The Contribution Period (The Trial Phase)

If your initial application is approved, you become a "Finalist."

- **Pick a Project:** You will browse a list of projects from organizations like **Linux Kernel, Mozilla, GNOME, or Wikimedia**.
- **Start Contributing:** You must record at least one contribution (a code fix, documentation update, or design task) on the Outreachy website to be eligible for the internship.
- **Communication:** Mentors observe how you interact with the community during this month.

### 3. The Final Proposal

After contributing, you submit a formal project proposal to the organization you worked with. If selected, you are paired with a mentor for the full internship.



## Stipend and Benefits

Outreachy is famous for its generous and transparent pay structure:

- **Total Stipend:** **\$7,000 USD** for the 3-month internship.
- **Travel Grant:** Usually an additional **\$500 USD** to attend a tech conference (if available).

- **Remote Work:** The internship is entirely remote, allowing you to work from anywhere in the world.

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## GSoC vs. Outreachy: Key Differences

Feature	GSoC	Outreachy
Eligibility	Students or Beginners.	People facing under-representation.
Requirement	Formal technical proposal.	Technical proposal + mandatory contribution.
Focus	Project-centric.	Diversity and career-growth centric.
Stipend	Based on PPP (location).	Fixed <b>\$7,000 USD</b> for all.

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## How to Prepare Right Now

1. **Check Your Eligibility:** Visit the [Outreachy Eligibility page](#) to ensure you qualify.
2. **Improve Your Git Skills:** Since you must contribute *before* being selected, you need to be comfortable with the command line.
3. **Draft Your Essays:** Start thinking about your journey in tech. What obstacles have you overcome? What are your career goals?