

# Writing a good proposal

Your proposal is your best advertisement



# Writing a good proposal

1. Golden rule: "Start as early as possible!"
2. Focus on quality: you should focus on a few number of applications. A big number of applications will decrease the quality of your work. Having an outstanding proposal is extremely important.
3. Get involved in the project:
  1. Subscribe to the mailing list, ask and answer questions.
  2. Read any introductory documentation and get familiar with the source code of the project and the coding style.
  3. Introduce yourself to the community.
  4. Add simple features to the project, fix simple bugs and do some early-code-hacking.
  5. Send some patches and get feedback.



# Writing a good proposal (cont.)

## 4. Discuss your idea:

- If you have an **idea of yours**, you need to discuss it to **prove its feasibility** and to know if your idea is relevant to the project ? what are the milestones ?
- **Get feedback** about your idea, this feedback is crucial to your application, the project developers can help you adjust the required time for each milestone and whether you can do the whole work during the Google summer of code or not, sometimes students are very optimistic :),
- **Discuss** some **technical details**, how will you test your application ? how can you use the project test suite to test your work ? do you have to write your own tests ?
- **Establish priorities**, what should be delivered by the end of GSoC and what is optional? Make sure that you can achieve the goals you set. It's better to write a small but reliable, easy-to-read and well documented code than to write a huge buggy, non-readable code. Quality is important.



# Writing a good proposal (cont.)

## 5. Write your proposal:

- Describe precisely your idea:
  - The idea itself.
  - What are the **benefits** for the project ? why is it important ? what bugs will it fix ?
  - **Technical/Implementation details**: this shows that you have a clear idea about what you want to do,
  - Describe the possible problems that you may encounter and how you plan to solve them ?
- **Pictures**: If you can add some **mock-ups** to show how your project will look like.
- **Timeline**: Include a detailed schedule of your work: when will you do what ?
- **A CV-like** section:
  - Showing that you have already worked on a similar project helps a lot.
  - Beside your “good” CV, it would be really nice to show that you are familiar with the project, that you have already **contributed some patches**, and that you are ready to be productive.
  - And sure your **contact information**.



# Writing a good proposal (cont.)

6. Submit your proposal early:

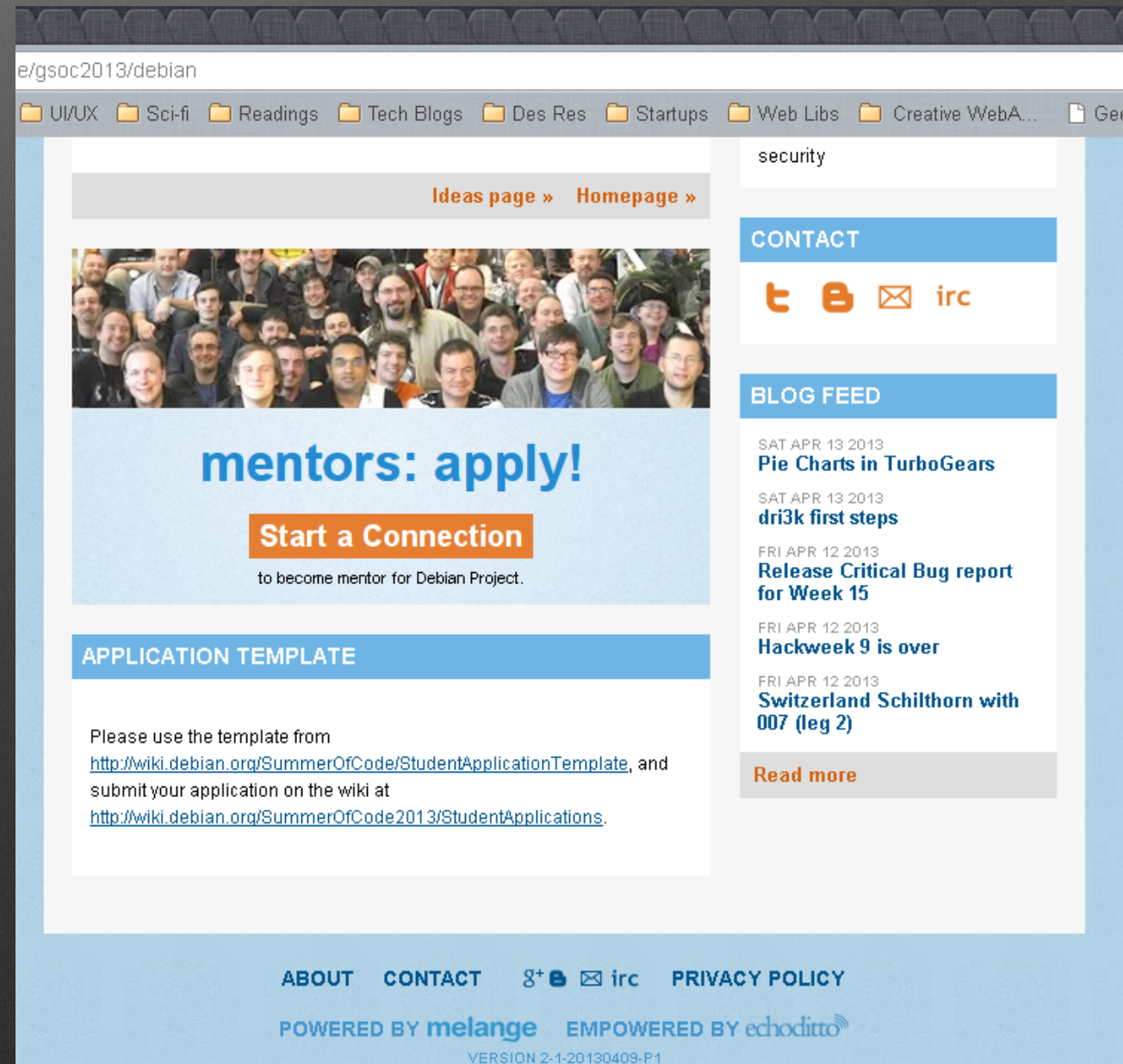
Keep it **short** but include all the necessary information.

Get it **reviewed by the right people** in the organization, well before submitting it to the Google Summer of Code web application.



# Proposal Template

Follow your organization proposal template, you will find it usually in their page on Google Melange



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `e/gsoc2013/debian`. The browser's tab bar shows several open tabs: UI/UX, Sci-fi, Readings, Tech Blogs, Des Res, Startups, Web Libs, Creative WebA..., and Gee. The website content is as follows:

- Navigation:** Links for "Ideas page »" and "Homepage »" are located at the top.
- Hero Section:** Features a large group photo of participants and the text "mentors: apply!" in blue. Below it is an orange button labeled "Start a Connection" with the subtext "to become mentor for Debian Project."
- APPLICATION TEMPLATE:** A section with a blue header containing instructions: "Please use the template from <http://wiki.debian.org/SummerOfCode/StudentApplicationTemplate>, and submit your application on the wiki at <http://wiki.debian.org/SummerOfCode2013/StudentApplications>."
- CONTACT:** A blue header section with social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, Email, and IRC.
- BLOG FEED:** A blue header section listing recent blog posts with dates and titles:
  - SAT APR 13 2013: **Pie Charts in TurboGears**
  - SAT APR 13 2013: **dri3k first steps**
  - FRI APR 12 2013: **Release Critical Bug report for Week 15**
  - FRI APR 12 2013: **Hackweek 9 is over**
  - FRI APR 12 2013: **Switzerland Schilthorn with 007 (leg 2)**A "Read more" link is provided at the bottom of the feed.
- Footer:** Contains links for "ABOUT", "CONTACT", "8+ irc", and "PRIVACY POLICY". It also states "POWERED BY melange" and "EMPOWERED BY echoditto". At the very bottom, the version number "VERSION 2-1-20130409-P1" is displayed.



# My Proposal

Here is my last year proposal:

<http://goo.gl/rYBgo>



# Questions



# References

## Helpful Articles:

<http://goo.gl/EKPBA>

<http://goo.gl/P2v5q>

## Useful Links

<http://goo.gl/2vLy8>

<http://goo.gl/IWbDa>

<http://goo.gl/wk5P5>

## Accepted Proposals from previous years:

<http://goo.gl/EvyrX>