

Google Summer of Code



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What is Google Summer of Code?

Google Summer of Code is a program that offers student developers stipends to write code for various *open source* projects.

An opportunity to *work* on an open source software project in the most friendly environment.

Watch the introduction [video](#) [6] about GSoC.

In other words

- not a competition, more like internship
- distributed team, you work from your home
- not really a recruiting program [1]

Is Google Summer of Code a recruiting program?

Not really. To be clear, Google will use the results of the program to help identify potential recruits, but that's not the focus of the program. Take a look at the organizations we've worked with in the past, and you'll see the vast majority are engaged in work that's not directly applicable to Google's business. That said, the more code out there, the more everyone benefits.

Additionally, we've heard from several of our past student participants that their participation in GSoC made them more attractive to potential employers, and most participants who have gained employment as a result of their GSoC work are not currently employed by Google. We're just pleased the program has helped some students when embarking on their technical careers. We're also pleased that the industry sees participation in the program as an additional factor to recommend a future employee.

[1] <http://socghop.appspot.com/document/show/program/google/gsoc2009/faqs#recruiting>

In numbers

- 5900 proposals
- 3500 student applicants
- 1000 accepted students
- students from 93 countries
- ~80% overall student success rate
- 4500 USD stipend if you successfully finish your project

Projects

150 projects

- operating systems
 - programming languages
 - web frameworks and applications
 - database management systems
 - ...
- <http://delicious.com/gsoc2009>
 - http://socghop.appspot.com/program/accepted_orgs/google/gsoc2009

Choosing projects

- Use some criteria
 - For me it was a programming language
- The community of the project may be another good criteria
 - Are they friendly to you?
 - Do they provide a clear feedback?
 - ...

Investigation

- Start as early as possible: January is a good start!
- Check out the project web-site
- Write a letter to the mailing list of the project
- Check the IRC channel
 - Some projects use email much more than IRC (or vice versa), you should be aware of that and use the usual communication channel for the project!

How to apply?

You need to write an application where you

- Introduce yourself
- Describe **ideas** you want to implement in details
 - Ideas are usually taken from the *idea list* of the project or proposed by the student
- Application format depends on a project
 - wiki page
 - google docs document
 - pdf
 - ...

Idea list

MoinMoin [project ideas](#) [7]

- Improve Xapian-based search
 - improve search results weighting / sorting / rendering
 - remove xapwrap dependency
 - improve index locking
 - more filters
 - more tests

Tips for writing a good application

- Contact early, contact often
- Do not send the application in the last moment
- Propose ideas which have high priority for the project
- Discuss your proposals and application with your friends

If you are accepted

- You will be subscribed to the "Google Summer of Code" mailing list from which you will get important information from Elen and Leslie about the program
- You should prepare to the coding stage

Version control system

- Learn the VCS the project uses. **subversion**, **mercurial**, **git** or **bazaar**
 - You will use it a lot! I did about 3 commits a day
 - It is not hard to use, it is hard to use it in the correct way. Think about *atomic* commits and *commit messages*
- E.g. start using a VCS for your student project

Source code

- Project's coding standard and habits
- Headers of files
- The way tests are written
- Commit messages

Example of [MoinMoin \[8\]](#) header

```
# -*- coding: iso-8859-1 -*-
"""
MoinMoin - datastruct (groups and dicts) support.

@copyright: 2009 MoinMoin:DmitrijsMilajevs
@license: GPL, see COPYING for details
"""
```

Note the coding parameter, short description, copyright and license

IDE and text editor

- Tune your IDE or text editor
 - Highlight white spaces
 - Turn on the spelling checker
 - Learn shortcuts
- Blind typing skill will help you a lot

Communication

- Effective communication is very crucial for success
 - I was using **irssi** + **screen** + **ssh**. The IRC client was running on a server connected to the Internet 24/7 to get all the messages from my mentor
- Try several programs, choose the best for you

Workplace

Organise you workplace, think about

- Chair and table
- Monitor
- Keyboard and mouse

Lifestyle

- Coding will be your main activity during the summer
 - I was supposed to work 8 hours a day, 5 days a week
- It is necessary to adjust your lifestyle to the new conditions.

Outcome

What we [MoinMoin community] offer [2]

If your project gets accepted, you will:

- be mentored by experienced MoinMoin / Python / web developers
- likely vastly improve your practical Python coding skills and style
- significantly improve your skills with distributed version control systems and unit testing
- improve team work and communication skills
- improve your Free Software / Open Source knowledge
- get the chance to contribute real-world code used by all moin users / wiki sites world-wide
- maybe develop your own software (if you like to use MoinMoin for your own daily stuff)
- have fun

[2] <http://moinmo.in/GoogleSoc2009>

Other useful materials

- Fedora GSoC [report \[3\]](#) 2009
- MoinMoin's Google Summer of Code [Wrap Up \[4\]](#)
- [Blog \[5\]](#) Open Source at Google

That's All, Folks!

Further information: <http://code.google.com/soc/>

Any questions?

Feel free to contact me dimazest@gmail.com



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Links

[3] https://fedoraproject.org/wiki/GSoC_report_2009

[4] <http://google-opensource.blogspot.com/2009/10/moinmoins-google-summer-of-code-wrap-up.html>

[5] <http://google-opensource.blogspot.com/search/label/gsoc2009>

[6] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBRRR0BQyz0>

[7] <http://moinmo.in/GoogleSoc2009/InitialProjectIdeas>

[8] <http://www.moinmo.in/>

[9] <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>