



For

Google Summer of Code

Get into *GSoC*.

The timeline, the proposal and the mistakes. For first and second-years.

Made with engineers who **work at**
Microsoft and Atlassian and **teach at**
NYC.





Before you follow a plan, you should know who made it.

Made with engineers who work at Microsoft and Atlassian *and teach at NYC.*



Swapnil

Forward Deployed Engineer, Microsoft

Works on Microsoft Teams. Teaches Full Stack Engineering at NYC.



Akshay

Senior Software Engineer, Atlassian

Worked on UPI payments at Jio Platforms. Teaches DSA at NYC.

They speak for themselves, not for their employers.



Our students are already *contributing*.

Open source and a hackathon are part of the course, and engineers review the work.



FROM WEEK 3 Code goes in through pull requests

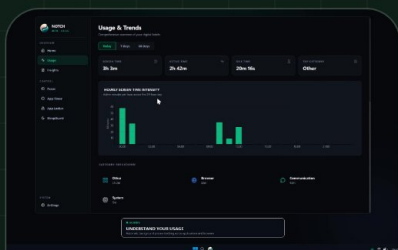
WEEKS 22-23 Open source and a hackathon

COMMUNITY People who build together



What our students *have built.*

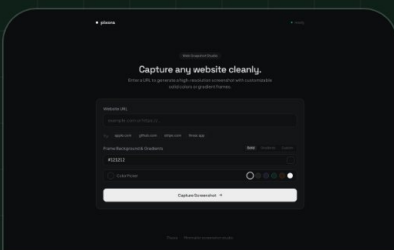
Projects from the NYC community, credited to the people who built them.



Notch

A Windows focus app, built in first year. Akshit.

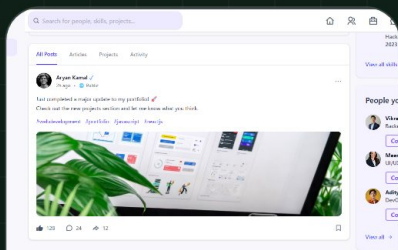
[Open ↗](#)



Pixora

A screenshot studio for any website. Abinash.

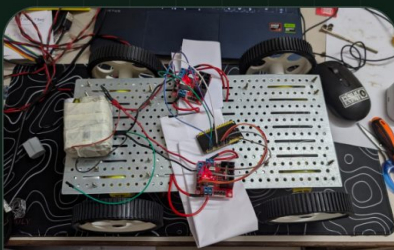
[Open ↗](#)



DevConnect

A network for developers to share projects. Aryan.

[See the code ↗](#)



AgroBot

A farming rover prototype. Akash and team.



His own Vercel, in 10th class

A deployment platform built by a school student.

[Watch the video ↗](#)



Now, let's start *the plan.*

Eight short sections. Read them in order.

- 01 What GSoC is
- 02 Your 6-month plan, November to May
- 03 How to pick your org
- 04 5 rules for your proposal
- 05 Your proposal, section by section
- 06 Your week
- 07 7 mistakes to avoid
- 08 After the results

GSoC: Google pays you *to code for open source.*

You write code for an open-source org over the summer. Orgs pick you based on what you did before the application opened, so it works like a job interview that lasts four months.

WHO CAN APPLY

18+

Any student. First and second-years get selected every year. Experience matters, year does not.

MONEY

Stipend

Paid by Google, set by country. Enough that your college takes it seriously.

HOURS

175 or 350

A medium or large project.

WEEKS

12-22

With a mentor from the org.

Each year



~200 organisations take part



~1,000 contributors are selected worldwide



70% of selections go to people who contributed before applying



Numbers are approximate and change yearly. Check summerofcode.withgoogle.com.

Your 6-month plan, *November to May.*

Orgs are announced in late February. The people who get selected started in November.

Nov

Pick 3 orgs

Use last year's org list.
Pick projects you actually use.

Dec

First PRs

Set up, fix small issues and learn the codebase. A PR (pull request) is a code change you send to the org.

Jan

Get known

Get 5–10 PRs merged. Be active on their chat.

Feb

Orgs announced

Confirm your org is in. Read their ideas list the day it comes out.

Mar

Proposal

Draft it, share it with mentors, revise twice. Submit early.

Apr–May

Wait, keep contributing

Results in early May. Contributions during review count.

Before you apply

10

merged PRs

2

proposal drafts reviewed by a mentor

1

org you go deep on, not five

How to pick *your org*.

Do this from November to January.

Pick where first-timers get in

- ✓ It had 10+ slots last year.
- ✓ Its chat (Discord, Zulip or Matrix) is active, and mentors reply daily.
- ✓ Its ideas list has "difficulty: easy/medium" tags.
- ✓ It is an Indian org, or it has Indian mentors.

FOSSASIA

Sugar Labs

Frappe

Oppia

Zulip

Avoid where you are one of 300

- ✗ It had 2 slots and 150 proposals. Check last year's stats.
- ✗ You picked it only because the name is famous.
- ✗ It has no public contribution history from students.
- ✗ You switch orgs in March.



Checkpoint End of January

5+ merged PRs in one org. Its mentors know your name.

5 rules for *your proposal*.

Write it in March.

1 Put a one-page summary first. Then the detail.

Mentors read 40 proposals. Page 1 decides if they read page 2.

2 Show you already know the codebase.

Link your merged PRs. Name the files you will touch.

3 Give a week-by-week plan with deliverables.

12 rows. Each row says what is merged by that Friday.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

4 Name the risks and how you handle them.

Exams, a tricky dependency. Say it before they ask.

5 Share the draft with a mentor two weeks early.

Proposals that got feedback get selected. Cold submissions mostly do not.



At NYC: internship prep covers the proposal.

Your proposal, *section by section.*

Copy this structure.

Your proposal

6–10 pages

- 1 Title, org and project idea
- 2 About me
3 lines, with links
- 3 My contributions so far
PR links
- 4 Problem statement
- 5 Proposed solution
- 6 Architecture and design
- 7 Week-by-week timeline
- 8 Deliverables and tests
- 9 Risks and how you handle them
- 10 Availability
hours a week, exams
- 11 Why this org, why me
- 12 Contact and time zone

Diagrams count. Padding does not.

Tone: specific, not grand



~~"I am passionate about open source."~~



"I will add X to file Y using Z."

Your week, *November to March.*

MON

Read

TUE

Code

WED

Review

THU

Code

FRI

Chat

SAT

Build

SUN

Log

MON

Read 1 issue thread fully

Reply if you can help

TUE

Work on your open PR

WED

Review someone else's PR

Be useful, not loud

THU

Work on your open PR

Push progress

FRI

Ask one good question in chat

Say what you tried

SAT

3-hour build session

Open a new PR

SUN

Write 5 lines in your log

What you learned

Each week

6-8

hours a week is
enough, from
November

1

question in the org
chat, with context

5

lines in your log. It
becomes your
proposal.



At NYC: your code goes in through pull requests, like real teams do. Engineers review your PRs before you open them.

7 mistakes that *get proposals rejected.*

× ~~1. Starting in March~~

✓ Orgs pick people they already know. March is for the proposal, not for saying hello.

× ~~2. Five orgs, zero depth~~

✓ One org with ten PRs beats five orgs with two PRs each.

× ~~3. "I am passionate" proposals~~

✓ Nobody selects passion. They select a plan with PR links.

× ~~4. No contact with mentors~~

✓ If a mentor has never seen your name, your proposal is a cold email. Talk to them first.

× ~~5. Copying last year's proposal~~

✓ They have read it. Write your own.

× ~~6. Going quiet in April~~

✓ Review is still going on. Keep contributing until the results.

× ~~7. Treating rejection as the end~~

✓ Many selected contributors were rejected the year before. Stay in the org.

What happens *after the results.*

IF SELECTED: YOUR SUMMER, FROM MAY

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Bonding

Coding

Mid

Final

■ Community bonding: 3 weeks

Set up, meet your mentor and refine the plan. Do not write code yet.

■ Coding: 12 weeks

A weekly check-in. Small PRs. A blog post every two weeks.

□ Evaluations: mid and final

Your mentor grades you. Communication counts as much as code.

After GSoC use it

- ✓ Put GSoC on your résumé: the org, the project and a link.
- ✓ Mentors give referrals. Ask.
- ✓ Stay on as a maintainer. Next year, you mentor.

If not selected use it anyway

- You now have 10 merged PRs. Say so.
- Apply to LFX Mentorship, MLH Fellowship or Outreachy.
- Try the same org next year. You are already known.

We teach open source *and the proposal, live.*

● ● ● nyc · course

Covers this plan



WE TEACH THIS

Software Engineering + AI

Open source is module 6 of Software Engineering + AI: real PRs, reviewed by engineers before you open them. Internship prep covers the proposal.

 Live classes Engineer reviews For: **GSoC contributor** → **SDE intern**

Talk to an advisor

See the course → notyourcollege.com



Guide by the NYC team, 2026. Based on the public GSoC programme rules and timelines; verify dates at summerofcode.withgoogle.com. NYC is not affiliated with Google. NYC does not guarantee employment or selection.