

Google Research
exploreCSR

Application companion

tldr - The exploreCSR Application Companion provides resources to support applicants with structuring and developing quality applications. It includes the program overview, current application questions for collaboration amongst submitters, and FAQs.

It is available at goo.gle/exploreCSR-companion. For more information, visit g.co/exploreCSR or contact exploreCSR@google.com.

Program overview



Google is still on a mission to boost student interest in computing research, especially among historically marginalized groups. Since 2018, exploreCSR has supported institutions in designing and hosting research-focused initiatives that build skills, community, and motivation to pursue computing research pathways.

To date, exploreCSR has:

- Awarded over \$4.7 million to 140 institutions across 23 countries, including:
 - \$3.9M in unrestricted gifts to the institutions;
 - \$210K in TensorFlow ML-focused awards to a select group of institutions; and
 - \$833K in unrestricted gifts to support research experiences for undergraduates (REUs).
- Supported your collective 237 initiatives, reaching ~20K students.
- Authored 3 publications (see FAQs) that collectively indicate that the program is successfully accomplishing the goals of building skills, creating community, and developing student motivation and confidence to pursue CS research.

Building on this foundation, exploreCSR is now entering its final cycle with a strategic shift aimed at maximizing long-term impact. This cycle is exclusively open to previous exploreCSR award recipients. We aim to build upon past successes to catalyze long-term, systemic change within university departments, creating a lasting legacy of inclusion and support for HMG students.

Award details

Recipients will have the opportunity to lead ambitious initiatives that address systemic barriers and foster a culture of belonging within their departments.

- **Eligibility:** Open only to PIs and co-PIs who have previously received exploreCSR funding.
- **Limit:** Each institution is eligible to receive a maximum of one award in this final cycle.
- **Award Amount:** Awards will be granted up to \$125,000 USD.
- **Disbursement:** Awards are disbursed as unrestricted gifts to the institution.

Review criteria

1. **Departmental Impact:** Demonstrates how the proposed initiative will lead to lasting changes in policies, practices, or culture within the department to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.
2. **Sustainability:** Outlines a clear plan for how the initiative's impact will be sustained beyond the funding period.
3. **Partnerships:** Demonstrates strong partnerships with other departments, institutions, organizations, or industry partners.
4. **Scalability:** If applicable, describes how the initiative's model or approach could be adapted and implemented by other departments or institutions.
5. **Budget:** Outlines the proposed use of funding.

How to apply

During the open application period between September 5 – 26, 2024, applicants should locate the exploreCSR site at g.co/exploreCSR and click the "Apply now" button, which will direct applicants to Submittable, where they will need to login or create a new account to begin an application.

Please be sure to complete all required fields, upload any necessary documents, and thoroughly review your application before clicking "Submit."

Core application questions

Use this section to collaborate with co-PI/teammates on your exploreCSR application to review all of the project questions in one place.

1. Describe the specific DEI challenges within the department that the project aims to tackle, how you'll measure their achievement, and how they will contribute to a more inclusive environment for HMG students. Articulate how the project will create a lasting legacy of change.

2. Outline your strategy for ensuring the initiative's impact continues beyond funding, including securing ongoing support, integrating it into departmental structures, and evaluating its progress and impact.

- 3. Identify key partners and describe their roles and contributions. Explain how these partnerships will enhance the initiative's impact, sustainability, and integration. Provide letters of support confirming their commitment and contributions.

- 4. Describe how your initiative's model or approach could be adapted and implemented by other departments or institutions. Explain how it can be tailored to different contexts and needs.

- 5. Awards will be granted up to \$125,000 USD. Provide a detailed breakdown of your proposed budget, including justification for each expense. Demonstrate cost-effectiveness and how the budget supports long-term sustainability.

Format by line item as: Description. [unit cost] x [number of units] = total cost

- 6. Briefly describe your experience as a past exploreCSR recipient and how it has prepared you to lead this initiative.

- 7. We are particularly interested in proposals that embed diversity, equity, and inclusion into the very fabric of departmental policies, practices, and culture. How will an exploreCSR award empower your department to create lasting, systemic change that supports students from historically marginalized groups in computing research, beyond the funding period?

FAQs

- Who is eligible to apply?
 - Past recipients of exploreCSR awards are eligible to apply.
- Why are only past exploreCSR recipients eligible to apply?
 - The final cycle of exploreCSR is focused on driving systemic change within university departments. We believe that past recipients, with their prior experience and demonstrated commitment to fostering inclusion in computing research, are uniquely positioned to lead transformative initiatives that embed diversity, equity, and inclusion into the very fabric of departmental policies, practices, and culture. By supporting transformative initiatives led by experienced champions, we aspire to create a ripple effect that extends far beyond the program's lifespan.
- Is a CV required?
 - The application will request a CV for the Primary PI (2-page max, required) and for the co-PI (2 additional pages max) if there is one.
- Is there an application companion resource available?
 - Yes, view our application companion at goo.gl/exploreCSR-companion.
- Will feedback be provided on the proposal that we submit?
 - No, applicants will not receive feedback on the proposal submitted.
- Is it possible to receive an extension?
 - No, all applications must be submitted by 11:59:59pm on the day of the application deadline. Late submissions are not reviewed, and extensions are not granted.
- What is considered a "historically marginalized group"?
 - The definition of who is historically marginalized is responsive to a specific region, context, and its nuances; the proposal should define the students from groups historically marginalized in computing research that the initiative aims to impact, and how the initiative will address their needs.
- Have there been any publications on exploreCSR's impact?
 - Yes! exploreCSR has published the following papers on the program's structure and impact:
 - [Understanding Immersive Research Experiences that Build Community, Equity, and Inclusion](#) (SIGCSE 2021; Best Paper)
 - [The Role of 'Intersectional Capital' in Undergraduate Women's Engagement in Research-Focused Computing Workshops](#) (RESPECT 2021)
 - [eCSR: Creating Intensive Research Experiences that Cultivate Community for Undergraduate Women & Women of Color](#) (RESPECT 2020)