

Informative meeting for mentors of CERN-HSF GSoC 2019

[01/03/2019] - Minutes

Introduction

- New admins presentation: Antoine Perus, Andrei Gheata, Javier Cervantes
- CERN-HSF got selected in one of the most popular GSoC Editions in term of number of participants (orgs, mentors, proposals)

Student-organization interaction period

- We provide different resources with basic information, however it is highly recommended to check the official [Guide for Mentors from Google](#).
- First steps to do now:
 - Accept our invitation to join as a mentor to the org. in the GSoC Website (mail already sent to all mentors)
 - You may be required to use a GMail account, however any other account (CERN, or other lab account) can be used if added to the GMail configuration.
 - We also recommend signing up to the Google mailing list, since there are quite relevant and interesting topics discussed between mentors and admins from other organizations.
 - Join our CERN-HSF GSoC Mailing list
 - From now on, we will only use this communication channel for future announcements.
- Student-organization interaction period
 - Prepare challenges for the students
 - It is very important to rank them based on their skills
 - We also recommend to check their responsiveness, many of them will contact several project from different orgs around the world, this challenge serves as first cut to select those really interested on continue further on the process.
 - Questions:
 - *Can mentors provide feedback about how students perform on the challenges?* Yes, mentors can interact with the students and comment the challenges. However, mentor cannot share with them the final decision.
 - *Is there any limitation in the amount of information that can be exchanged between candidates and mentors prior the student's proposal submission?* No, except for the result of the candidate selection.

Further steps (part of the same deck of slides)

- Student application period
 - Students already know about the project and they start writing proposals
 - Google provides guidelines for the students (also recommended for mentors)
 - Questions.
 - *Are mentor allow not to select any candidate?* Yes, that may happen, hence the project will not be considered for the slot assignment.
 - *Where is the ranking feedback done?* Mentors can rate the students on the GSoC Website and can also send feedback to the administrators.
- Slot assignments
 - The list of criteria is not yet defined, but the goal is to score every project under the same conditions. We will share it as soon as we finish it.
- Community Bonding Period
 - It is a preparing period before the coding phase, quite important.
 - Questions:
 - *Does it include creating CERN account for students?* Yes, the goal is to setup everything that may be needed in order to be productive from the day zero of the Coding period.
- Coding Period
 - At least one of the mentors should be accessible during the coding period, given the nature of the program it is important to be reachable and that students feel that they are not left alone.
 - Fail early if you think it is necessary, do not be afraid. This a Google recommendation.
 - Evaluations are extremely important, both from students and mentors.
 - Students will not get paid by Google unless mentors submit the evaluations.
 - Students also evaluate mentors, and it is the responsibility of the mentors to ensure that students send it.
 - Finally, take into account that student contributions should be integrated into the project's community at the end of the program.
- Conclusions:
 - Estimated weekly workload: 2-3 hours

Questions:

- Slide 16: *Conferences or venues?* Google have a limited budget for students presenting on conferences. Also people coming to visit CERN/Labs institutions can be funded, the major problem might be the administrative part, since the lab needs to pay to an external person.

- *Do project need to be hosted on Github?* Not necessarily, gitlab or whichever other tool is fine, the only requirement for the project is to be open source and open to contributions.
- *Is the list of criteria for the project selection already public?* Not yet. It will be, but it is not finished yet.