



Stipend Applications and Requirements

MERL Center

GitHub, Inc. in partnership with MERL Tech / Kurante

Original call: Wednesday, 29 July 2020

Deadline to submit clarifying questions: None (please send as needed)

Deadline to apply: None, ongoing as funding permits

Please send any clarifying questions to:

Mala Kumar, malakumar85@github.com

Linda Raftree, lindaraftree@gmail.com

Please apply using this link: <https://forms.gle/7ZzocQ8qxMuVkSdo9>

MERL Center Member Stipend Application and Requirements

Disclaimer: Please note it is NOT required to complete an application to be a MERL Center Member. These requirements apply only to MERL Center Members who wish to receive a stipend.

Context

The MERL Center was conceptualized and created by the GitHub Social Impact, Tech for Social Good¹ program in September 2019 at the MERL Tech conference in Washington DC. Its aim is to create resources for the [monitoring, evaluation, research and learning](#) (MERL) community to effectively engage open source software, tools and data into their work. Members of the MERL Center contribute to any or all of the major content types:

- Project Management Tools
- Learning Content
- Web Code and Assets
- MERL Center Created Resources

Most Members of the MERL Center contribute through a working group, such as Case Studies or Beginner's Guides. Some Members contribute to activities outside of working groups, such as to the governance design of the MERL Center.

[Click here to learn more about the MERL Center.](#)

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this application is to award stipends to MERL Center Members who have demonstrably committed or will commit significant time and effort to the MERL Center, as defined below.

Stipend Amount

Stipends are USD 500 per MERL Center Member per year. They are awarded on a rolling basis, as funding permits.

Eligibility and Requirements

To qualify for a stipend, the MERL Center Member must:

- Demonstrate knowledge/expertise in open source and/or MERL disciplines
- Have professional proficiency in English
- Demonstrate strong writing and editing skills
- Be able to receive funds from a US bank account or funds in a local currency from WorldRemit.

There are no formal education requirements. Previous knowledge of GitHub is encouraged but not required.

In receiving a stipend, the MERL Center Member agrees to complete the following throughout the year:

¹ The GitHub Social Impact Open Source for Good program became the Tech for Social Good program in July 2020.

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- Contribute at least **two complete** pieces of content in any of the above listed content types, e.g. two complete case studies **or** one complete case study and a beginner's guide lesson **or** one guide on governance models and one data visualization.
- Serve as an editor to at least **one piece** of content they do not produce.
- Participate in monthly standing calls, time zone and schedules permitting.
- Communicate on a regular i.e. monthly basis with other Members through GitHub, Slack and the Google Drive.

It is estimated the above commitments should take no more than 3-5 hours **per month**. Participation is required throughout the year, though it is not expected all paid Members will be able to participate in every call or communicate with other MERL Center Members every week. GitHub and MERL Tech / Kurante will make good faith efforts to work around Members' work and personal schedules.

Stipends are financed through the GitHub Social Impact team and paid through Kurante. The application form will be closed if funding for the year is depleted. Failure to complete the requirements may result in dismissal from the group.

Application

To apply, fill out this application form: <https://forms.gle/K5dX3quvxqpEbFpk7>. Existing MERL Center Members do not need to fill out every field. Select MERL Center Members will be offered a stipend automatically based on previous contributions, which count towards their requirements.