

Faculty Awards to Support Machine Learning Courses, Diversity, and Inclusion at Universities



2020 Request for Proposals

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Background

Google is requesting proposals from faculty members from academic degree-granting institutions. Google has parallel goals for these awards, and you may apply for funding with one or both in mind.

- We want to support you as you design, develop, and teach undergraduate or graduate level machine learning courses that include examples with TensorFlow and other open-source libraries. We would like to support courses that teach practical, in-demand skills, and to support courses that prepare students to solve new and challenging problems using ML (including in applied areas, such as healthcare, basic science, or journalism).
- We want to support you as you lead or contribute to diversity initiatives that widen access to ML education for currently underrepresented groups in computer science. Undergraduate experience with machine learning can yield many benefits to students, including increased confidence in their academic knowledge and technical skills; broader

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awareness of the discipline; and awareness of research career pathways. We are especially interested in programs that include a clear focus on cultivating and retaining a “critical mass” of students, and that encourage students to pursue graduate study and/or future careers in ML.

We especially welcome proposals that combine these goals, proposals that include cross-institutional collaborations, and proposals that include collaborations between faculty and PhD students.

Award information

Accepted proposals will receive financial support as well as technical mentorship from the TensorFlow team to help you deliver one iteration of your proposed machine learning course or diversity program, as well as Google Cloud credits and access to TPUs.

Financial support

Faculty may apply for support between \$5,000 and \$20,000 USD, or more on a case by case basis with justification for large classes, diversity programs, or cross-institutional partnerships.

These awards will be given as unrestricted gifts to the university. Please note that Google does not pay overhead on gifts. These are one year grants intended for use in academic year 2020-2021. You may apply for a grant to support a course or other educational activity that will run at any time during this period.

Accepted proposals may be funded in full or partial amounts, depending on the number we receive. Please include a budget in your proposal outlining how you will use the requested funds, and indicate if you are interested in receiving partial financial support.

In past years, these funds have been used (for example) to support curriculum development, to pay teaching assistant stipends, to provide textbooks for students, to cover conference travel, to purchase equipment for students or the university, and to provide food and other supplies for students. We are especially interested in educational content that can also be made available online (e.g. by uploading videos to YouTube, and/or slides and code to GitHub), and in the past these funds have been used to support video production as well.

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Technical mentorship

In addition to funding, we are happy to connect you with a member of the TensorFlow team to answer questions, share slides, examples, teaching materials, and recommend books.

Access to the TensorFlow Research Cloud

If you are a machine learning researcher, you may also request access to the [TensorFlow Research Cloud](#), with up to five regular [Cloud TPU](#) v3 devices (with 420 teraflops and 128 GB HBM each) and 20 preemptible Cloud TPU v2 for up to 90 days, availability permitting. These resources may be used by faculty or students to train models at scale, and can potentially be extended.

Cloud Credits

You may also request credits for Google Cloud Platform using this [form](#). Note that it's not necessary to use cloud services to use TensorFlow. We recommend students use [Colaboratory](#) (a Jupyter notebook environment that includes a free GPU). Students may also install TensorFlow locally.

Review Criteria

We will consider your syllabus and the details of your proposed or existing course or diversity program when evaluating your proposal, as well as to the degree which it aligns with the goals above.

Submit your proposal

Please complete and upload your proposal using this [form](#). Decisions are rolling, and notifications will be sent within four weeks of receiving your submission. The deadline for submissions is **July 30th, 2020**.

Questions?

If you have any questions, or to delete your submission information at any time, please reach out to tensorflow-rfp@google.com.

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FAQ

What countries is this award open to?

These awards are open to colleges and universities in any country except those with sanctions imposed by the United States Office of Foreign Assets Control ([OFAC](#)).

Can PhD students apply for these awards to develop courses or outreach programs?

Yes! Please include a faculty supervisor on your application.

Can developer student clubs apply for this funding to develop outreach programs?

Yes! Please include a faculty supervisor on your application.

Are these awards given to individuals or the university?

Awards are given as an unrestricted gift to the university.

Are these awards open to colleges (or only universities?)

These awards are open to any academic degree-granting institution (including liberal arts colleges, private non-profit, public, as well as PhD granting universities).