2025 Google PhD Fellowships

Penn is invited to submit up to 4 nominees for the Google PhD Fellowship Program. Call for nominations has been shared with Penn graduate deans and faculty in eligible fields. Internal school processes for selection may vary. Contact your school's associate dean for graduate studies or graduate group chair for more information.

About the Program

Google PhD Fellowships directly support graduate students as they pursue their PhD, as well as connect them to a Google Research Mentor.

The Google PhD Fellowship Program was created to recognize outstanding graduate students doing exceptional and innovative research in areas relevant to computer science and related fields. Fellowships support promising PhD candidates of all backgrounds who seek to influence the future of technology. Our research teams impact technology used by people all over the world and we encourage people of a wide range of backgrounds to apply. We currently offer fellowships in Africa, Australia, Canada, East Asia, Europe, India, Latin America, the Middle East, New Zealand, Southeast Asia and the United States.

Eligibility requirements

- Full-time graduate students pursuing a PhD in Computer Science or related field (see research areas below)
- Completed graduate coursework by Fall 2025, when the Fellowship begins.
- The recipient must remain an active, full-time student in a PhD program for the duration of the Fellowship (up to 3 years) or forfeit the award.
- Google employees, and their spouses, children, and members of their household are not eligible.
- Students that are already supported by a comparable industry award are not eligible.

Fellows will be named in the following areas:

- Computer Architecture
- Algorithms and Optimization
- Health Research
- Human-Computer Interaction
- Machine Learning and ML Foundations
- Machine Perception
- Natural Language Processing
- Privacy, Safety, and Security
- Quantum Computing
- Software Engineering and Programming Languages
- Systems, Networking, and Cloud Computing

Review Criteria

Applications are evaluated on the strength of the research proposal, research impact, student academic achievements, and leadership potential. Research proposals are evaluated for innovative concepts that are relevant to Google's research areas, as well as aspects of robustness and potential impact to the field. Proposals should include the direction and any plans of where your work is going in addition to a comprehensive description of the research you are pursuing.

In Canada and the United States, East Asia and Latin America, essay responses are evaluated in addition to application materials to determine an overall recommendation.

For additional fellowship details please see the [FAQ on this page](#).

Application Components

Applicants are required to submit the following:

1. Student CV with links to website and publications (if available)

2. 1-page CV of student's primary advisor

3. Unofficial PDF copies of undergraduate and graduate transcripts

4. Research/dissertation abstract (no more than 1,000 characters)

5. Research/dissertation proposal (maximum 3 pages, excluding references)

6. Student essay response (350-word limit) to: Describe the desired impact your research will make on the field and society, and why this is important to you. Include any personal, educational and/or professional experiences that have motivated your research interests.

7. Student essay response (350-word limit) to: Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time. (A leadership role can mean more than just a title. It can mean being a mentor to others, acting as the person in charge of a specific task, or taking the lead role in organizing an event or project. Think about what you accomplished and what you learned from the experience. What were your responsibilities? Did you lead a team? How did your experience change your perspective on leading others? Did you help to resolve an important dispute at your school, church, in your community or an organization? And your leadership role doesn't necessarily have to be limited to school activities. For example, do you help out or take care of your family?).

This application requires 2-3 letters of recommendation, at least one of which should be from your thesis advisor. Letters should be submitted by recommenders directly to the school or program contact for nominations and not by the applicant.

Deadlines:

Internal Competition Deadline: April 14, 2025

Provost's Office submits 2-4 nominees: May 15, 2025