Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Science
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About

What is the Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Science?
The Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Science is a $30 million global open-call to accelerate scientific breakthroughs that improve human health and build climate resilience. We are looking for nonprofits, academic institutions, and social enterprises that are building transformative AI-powered solutions, ranging from large-scale open datasets to pioneering research breakthroughs. Beyond funding, organizations may participate in a Google.org Accelerator and receive six months of dedicated pro bono technical support from Google experts and access to Google Cloud credits to help bring these projects to life.

When can I apply for funding through the Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Science?
We will accept applications beginning on February 19, 2026 until April 17, 2026 at 11:59PM PT.

What are the key criteria for a successful application to the Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Science?

1. Scientific Ambition & Impact

- **Transformational Research:** Projects must address a critical, unresolved question in one of the priority scientific domains: AI for Health & Life Sciences, or AI for Climate Resilience & Environmental Science. We are looking for high-impact projects that have the potential to create a step-change in scientific understanding or unlock entirely new avenues of research and accelerate the timeline of scientific breakthroughs 'from years to moments' to reach real-world impact faster.
- **Evidence-Based Approach:** Proposals should be grounded in existing research and data. New ideas must provide a strong justification for their potential success, while existing projects seeking to scale should demonstrate progress and learnings to date.
- **Clear Outcomes and Metrics:** Applicants must clearly define the project's intended outcomes and provide specific, quantifiable metrics to measure success. This includes both short-term (12-18 months) and long-term (24-36+ months) goals.

2. Innovative and Responsible Use of AI

- **Core Technological Innovation:** The application of AI (or enablement of future applications of AI) must be central to the project's core methodology and offer significant advantages over alternative approaches. Projects can involve developing new AI models or applying existing technologies in novel ways.
- **Building essential AI infrastructure:** Project should develop the computational tools, platforms, and models needed to convert fragmented research into robust, scalable, and reproducible scientific solutions.

- **Responsible AI:** All projects must align with [Google's AI Principles](#) and demonstrate a thoughtful approach to responsible AI development and deployment. This includes addressing potential risks and ethical considerations.
- **Public Goods and Openness:** To benefit the entire scientific community, we generally require any intellectual property created with Google.org funding to be made publicly available under a permissive open-source license, to the extent possible. This includes publishing research, sharing datasets where appropriate, and open-sourcing models.

3. Feasibility

- **Team and Expertise:** The project team must possess the necessary technical and domain expertise to successfully execute the proposed research. We look for teams that are well-equipped to handle ambitious, technology-driven projects, in addition to having expertise in the particular topical subject matter.
- **Realistic Plan and Resources:** Proposals must include a well-developed and realistic execution plan, including a clear timeline, budget, and access to necessary data and computational resources.

4. Scalability & Sustainability

- **Potential for Broad Impact**: While projects may start with a specific focus, they should have a clear path to scale and be applicable to other geographies, use cases, or scientific domains.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Strong proposals will include a plan to share learnings and best practices with the broader scientific community to enable others to build upon their work.
- **Long-Term Vision:** Applicants should articulate a vision for the project's continued growth and sustainability beyond the initial funding period.
- **Collaboration:** We encourage collaboration between multiple organizations, as these partnerships can be crucial for achieving the scale and impact we aim to support.

What type of projects are you looking for?

We are particularly interested to see proposals leveraging generative and advanced technology for social impact in the following ways:

- **AI for Health & Life Sciences:** Improve our understanding of human life—from genomics to brain mapping—to ultimately improve human health and wellbeing.
- **AI for Climate Resilience & Environmental Science:** Build a deeper understanding of our planet's living systems—spanning biodiversity, agriculture, oceans, and more—to help build a more resilient and sustainable Earth and atmosphere.

What are the categories of projects?

When you submit your project's application, you'll be required to categorize your submission by selecting one of the scientific domains and sub-categories listed below. Please see below for more information on each category. There will be an "Other" option but we expect most funded projects to ladder into one of the two noted high-level impact areas.

AI for Health & Life Sciences	
Functional Genomics	Funding AI-driven projects to investigate the genome. Projects should contribute advances to our fundamental understanding of the foundational principles that link genetic sequences to biological function and disease. This includes work that creates systems capable of predicting function from sequence to accelerate the development of precision medicine.
Cellular & Tissue Biology	Funding AI-driven projects to investigate biological systems at the cellular and tissue level. Projects should contribute advances to our understanding of the biological mechanisms and principles that govern cellular and tissue behavior in states of both health and disease. This includes work that reveals previously unknown cellular dynamics and advances our understanding of biology.
Neuroscience & the Brain	Funding AI-driven projects to investigate the brain. Projects should contribute advances to our fundamental understanding of the neural mechanics that give rise to cognitive functions like memory and learning. This includes work that leverages AI as a new modality to answer fundamental, previously unanswerable questions about how the brain works.
Drug Discovery	Funding AI-driven projects to accelerate the identification and development of novel therapeutic candidates. Projects should contribute advances to the computational modeling of molecular interactions, protein folding, and chemical synthesis. This includes work that utilizes generative AI and predictive modeling to reduce the time and cost of the drug development lifecycle and improve the efficacy of targeted treatments.
Disease Understanding & Resistance	Funding AI-driven projects to characterize the mechanisms of disease progression and the evolution of treatment resistance. Projects should contribute advances to our understanding of how pathogens and chronic conditions bypass biological defenses or therapeutic interventions. This includes work that creates predictive frameworks for identifying emerging health threats and developing strategies to overcome antimicrobial or chemotherapy resistance.
Health & Life Sciences - Other	Funding AI-driven projects that drive meaningful impact at the intersection of science and health and that meet all other funding criteria, but may not map precisely to the specific subdomains listed above.

AI for Climate Resilience & Environmental Science	
Chemistry or Synthetic Biology for Climate Solutions	Funding AI-driven projects to design and engineer novel biological and chemical solutions to mitigate climate change. This includes, but is not

	limited to, new pathways for GHG removal, sustainable materials, and the creation of climate-resilient crops.
Food & Agriculture	Funding AI projects to better understand the composition of plants, crops, and the broader global food system and deliver solutions for a more resilient, nutritious food supply.
Biosphere, Climate, and Society	Funding AI-driven projects to investigate and advance protection of marine and terrestrial biospheres. Projects should contribute advances to our fundamental understanding of the complex interplay between the biosphere and climate, human society, and/or ecosystem function, across marine or terrestrial environments. This includes work that investigates the role of these systems in providing critical climate mitigation solutions, or forecasts their response to climate change or other drivers of biodiversity loss or restoration.
Climate & Weather	Funding AI approaches to generate a fundamental understanding of geophysical drivers of Earth's climate and weather systems, to drastically reduce the largest uncertainties in long-range climate projections and create a step-change in predictive capability.
Materials Discovery	Funding AI-driven projects to accelerate the design and synthesis of next-generation materials for a sustainable future. Projects should contribute advances to the discovery of materials with novel properties for applications such as high-efficiency semiconductors, carbon-capture membranes, or sustainable alternatives to rare-earth elements. This includes work that leverages machine learning to navigate vast chemical spaces and predict material performance under extreme environmental conditions.
Advanced Energy & Materials	Funding AI projects to optimize the generation, storage, and distribution of clean energy. Projects should contribute advances to our understanding of complex energy systems, from improving the efficiency of solar and wind harvesting to the development of high-density battery chemistries and smart-grid management. This includes work that uses predictive modeling to enhance the stability of renewable energy infrastructures and accelerate the transition to a carbon-neutral energy economy.
Climate Resilience & Environmental Science - Other	Funding AI-driven projects that drive meaningful impact at the intersection of science and climate and that meet all other funding criteria, but may not map precisely to the specific subdomains listed above.

Can I only submit projects in the topics outlined?

While we believe that the two focus areas of investigation would benefit from additional scientific support, we are open to innovative projects that advance progress in other scientific domains. These projects can be submitted under the "other" category in the application. We will consider all projects submitted.

What will selected organizations receive?
Selected organizations may receive anywhere from $500K up to $3M+, and the opportunity to participate in the Google.org Accelerator, a multi-month program with access to structured support including dedicated pro bono expertise from Google employees, technical training, and Google Cloud credits. Within the application, you may indicate the amount of funding you are seeking for your project.

Google Cloud Credits
Recipients may receive Google Cloud credits as a part of the GIC offering. Credit disbursement is subject to eligibility review by Google, and will be determined based on project needs (see [Supplemental Terms and Conditions for the Google Cloud Credits Program](#)).

<u>Entry & eligibility</u>

Who is eligible?
The Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Science is open to any nonprofit charity, other nonprofit organization, public or private academic or research institution, or for-profit social enterprise company with a project that has a clear and explicit social impact purpose. Your organization or your project's partner organization(s) must have a registered office in your country of residence and not be in a country excluded in the [Terms](#). Unfortunately, individuals without organizational affiliation are ineligible.

What are the Terms?
Applicants are required to agree to these [Terms](#) when applying to the Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Science. Once selected, organizations must agree to additional terms to receive funding and to participate in the Google.org Accelerator. Selected organizations must also agree to the Google Cloud Platform Terms of Service to receive Cloud credits. The number of recipients, project specifics, amount of funding and the organizations selected are at Google's sole discretion.

Can we apply if we're a for-profit business with a social impact project?
For-profit businesses that are registered or formed under the laws of one of the eligible countries may apply if their proposed project has a clear and explicit social impact purpose that aligns with Google.org's focus areas, and if to the greatest extent possible, they are willing to open source any IP created (or distributed) with the funding and will not seek to earn a profit from any Google.org-funded work.

In what language should I submit my application?
All applications must be submitted in English as interviews and support provided through the Google.org Accelerator will be conducted in English. We require **at least one** fluent English speaker on your project team.

Can my organization submit more than one idea?
We encourage you to strongly consider which project best resonates with our submission criteria and your organization's strengths. However, if you have two unrelated projects that you feel would each make good candidates, please submit a separate application for each. We will review each project independently. No organization may submit more than two applications, except as described below.

What if I work for a large organization, like a university, that has many departments - can we submit multiple applications?
Large organizations like colleges and universities are permitted to submit multiple applications. We ask that each Project Manager submit only one proposal.

The Google.org Accelerator

How does the Google.org Accelerator program fit into this open call?
Selected organizations will have the opportunity to participate in a 6 month Google.org Accelerator to support participants with the technical tools and skills to overcome significant AI implementation barriers and accelerate cutting-edge scientific discovery. While the Google.org Accelerator curriculum is designed to support your challenges and will provide meaningful value to all awardees, participation in the Accelerator is not a mandatory condition to receive funding.

What is the Google.org Accelerator program?
The Google.org Accelerator is a 6 month program designed to transform high-level academic AIxScience research by providing the engineering support and organizational scaffolding needed to convert fragmented research into robust, scalable, and reproducible scientific solutions. The program includes pro bono assistance from Google expert mentors, technical training, and access to optional Google Cloud credits to build with the best of Google Cloud Platform's AI & ML tools.

How does funding fit into the Google.org Accelerator program?
Funding is granted separately from participation in the Google.org Accelerator. Participating in the Google.org Accelerator does not result in additional funding.

When and where does the Google.org Accelerator program take place?
There will be a mix of virtual/online programming and in-person moments, with at least two key in-person gatherings. Specific locations will be shared with selected organizations. The official programming is planned to commence in fall 2026.

What does the Google.org Accelerator programming include?
The 6 month program includes several components like Cloud Infrastructure trainings, community building sessions, and support from a pro bono AI Coach and a Project Success Manager (aka "the Squad"). Participants will have additional access to receive tailored support from technical mentors.

Component	Description	Goal
The Squad	Googlers are assigned to each Accelerator organization part-time as a pro bono AI Coach and a Project Success Manager.	The Squad will serve as the organizations' primary support system throughout the program & they'll help identify and support the organizations' needs.

Trainings	Scaled virtual trainings for multiple organizations.	Provide tailored content to advance the organizations' project.
1:1 Mentorship	1:1 ad-hoc sessions with mentors on specific topics. This will include access to Google Developer Experts & Google Developer Groups around the world.	Access to mentors who provide hands-on guidance on a one-off basis or in a deeper engagement based on organizations' needs on various topics.
Community Building	Moments for Accelerator participants to gather & amplify their work.	Provide a space to share, learn, and form meaningful relationships with other participating organizations and leaders.

Who should attend the Google.org Accelerator programming from my team?
Teams should plan to include the lead scientist or principal investigator and 1-2 project leads (the individuals leading the technical aspects of the project) who can make strategic decisions about the project. Other roles (e.g. data owner, prompt engineers) may be invited to virtually attend applicable technical training throughout the course of the 6 month program.

What is the approximate time commitment as a participant?
Between the training, community building, mentor sessions, and meetings with your pro bono Squad, participating organizations can expect to commit around 2 to 4 hours per week to the Google.org Accelerator program, although this may vary week to week (e.g. the two in-person events will be full-time for 2-3 days each).

What is the general timeline of the Google.org Accelerator program?
- Month 1 - Program Onboarding and Meet your Squad of Googler Volunteers: Meet your dedicated support system throughout the Accelerator program.
- Month 1 - Program Kickoff (in-person): Learn more about the Accelerator and meet the cohort of organizations.
- Month 2 through Month 6 - Official Accelerator Programming (virtual): Immerse in the official Accelerator programming through workshops, networking sessions, and mentor sessions.
- Month 3 - Mid-Point Check-In (virtual): Organizations showcase progress and learnings.
- Month 6 - Graduation / Demo Day (in-person): Organizations share their work with a broader audience.

<u>**Applying with Partners**</u>

Can my organization submit a joint application with another organization?
We welcome and encourage collaboration – especially between technical and social sector experts in the form of partnerships and coalitions. The application allows you to specify partners who will be critical to your work, and we ask joint proposals to select one organization to be the applicant of record

and main point of contact. For the applicant of record, we recommend choosing an organization within your partnership that has a registered office that meets the eligibility criteria listed in the [Terms](#).

How can I keep the rest of my partners informed throughout the process?
The applicant of record will be the main point of contact. Whenever you receive information and next steps, we suggest forwarding directly to your partners. If your organization is asked to provide additional information and/or attend an interview, you may include representatives from your partner organization(s).

How will my coalition or joint partnership receive funding?
If your application is selected to receive funding, the applicant organization will be the sole recipient of funding, but it may sub-fund or subcontract with other organizations to complete the proposed project as long as all organizations comply with the terms of the funding agreement.

Confidential information / IP

Will details of the project idea we submit be kept confidential?
No. Google.org will not treat your application as confidential or proprietary, and the details of your project may be shared with internal or external experts to evaluate your proposal. Please do not submit any proprietary or confidential information in your application. If your organization is selected to receive Google.org support, a summary for your project may be made available to the public on the Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Science website and/or other Google channels.

Who owns the intellectual property created by selected organizations?
We believe that projects supported by Google.org funding should be able to benefit everyone. If your organization is selected to receive Google.org support, we will generally require any intellectual property created (or distributed) with support from Google.org funding be made available to the public for free under a permissive open source license.

Who will review my proposal?
Each proposal reaching the final stage will undergo a review by, at minimum, members of the Google.org team, Google subject matter experts, and external third-party specialists from our partner organizations, including the Centre for Public Impact, Renaissance Philanthropy, and Faculty.

Project info

What do you mean when you say "project"?
A project is your organization's proposed idea and implementation plan for how you will use technology to address a social impact problem. If selected as a recipient, Google.org will be supporting the implementation of this project – so we need to know exactly how funding and support will help to realize your plan. This program will support specific projects rather than provide general operating support.

Can the project be in the idea stage? Does this have to be a new idea for my organization?
We're happy to consider early-stage ideas with a clear and feasible plan for implementation that will benefit society. Ideas need not be brand new – in fact, they may already be a work in progress. In all cases, we would like to hear exactly how funding and participation in the Google.org Accelerator will change the trajectory of your progress toward implementation, scale, and impact.

If another organization is currently implementing a similar concept, can we still submit the idea?
Yes, but please note that projects will be evaluated in part on their impactful approach and potential to scale. Please tell us how and why your implementation is impactful for the community, why your organization is uniquely suited to implement the concept in a way that will be more successful, or how you plan to partner with other organizations to achieve success.

Over what time period should the funds be spent?
While we're looking for projects that can demonstrate a pathway to impact within the first 12 months, funding can be spent over the course of 36 months.

What does Google mean regarding responsible AI?
See Google's [Responsible AI Practices](#) for practical guidance.

Am I required to use Google's products and AI models as a condition of funding?
No, selected projects are not required to leverage Google's AI models. There are, however, a number of tools and models that may be useful to your project. These include [Earth AI](#), [AlphaFold](#), and many others. Further, Google's pro bono expertise–including via the Accelerator–may be most relevant for projects leveraging Google Cloud and affiliated tools.

<u>**Process**</u>

Can I get a copy of the application questions before I fill out the application?
Yes, you can find a PDF copy of the [application questions here](#).

Can we include appendices or additional information to the application?
We are not able to accept any attachments beyond those linked as additional materials in the application form.

Can I save a draft of my application on the site if I want to edit it later?
Yes. Applications can be saved for later completion in the platform, though it's helpful to remember to press 'Save' periodically. Please note that there is a limit of one user and device at a time per account, so it may help to draft your responses in a separate document first, and only complete the application form once your entire application is ready for submission.

How do I make sure my application is successfully submitted?
Upon successful submission, you'll receive a confirmation message over email.

I've submitted my application. What do I do now?
That's great news – thank you for applying. No further action is required. We'll reach out if we require

any additional information, and will notify the selected organizations when decisions have been made.

What should I do if I want to change parts of my submitted application?
If you've already submitted your application, please email us at gic-aisci@google.com and we will help edit your submission on the back-end.

Do I need a Google account to apply?
No, you don't need a Google account.

Will every single application be reviewed?
Yes, we will review all eligible applications received.

What if I still have questions after reading the FAQs?
Please contact us at [gic-aisci@google.com.](mailto:gic-aisci@google.com)