OpenMRS Fellowship Program

Introduction

OpenMRS is committed to building a diverse, vibrant, and robust community where knowledge and experience is expanded through practical opportunities for anyone and everyone. Many developers and technical writers come to our community via Google mentorship programs like Google Summer of Code. By the end, many have grown as OpenMRS community members and developers - and what then? Our Fellowship Program complements GSoC and similar mentorship programs by providing opportunities for mid-level technical project managers, developers, and quality assurance specialists to become general OpenMRS jedis and gurus in their specific technical areas by expanding their OpenMRS skills and gaining experience through real work that are in demand by implementers.

How does it work?

OpenMRS fellowship program aims to expand our community’s capacity by providing practical opportunities to develop advanced skill sets using one or more of our OpenMRS stages (development, community, terminology, quality assurance, etc). To make the experience more meaningful, we aim to pair each fellow with a Fellow Mentor and an active squad or project. Most fellowship opportunities are 9 months long.

See below for more information on how to apply.

Who is involved?

Fellow Mentors

Fellow Mentors are experienced and knowledgeable. They have already acquired knowledge and experience in one or more areas of expertise, such as: project/product management, development, quality assurance, business analysis, etc. Fellow Mentors accompany OpenMRS Fellows as they work towards their fellowship goals. They may also mentor any community member seeking to advance their skills.

In addition, Fellow Mentors have experience with:

- Collaborating with the OpenMRS community (or other open source project)
- Identifying learning opportunities
- Transferring knowledge and skills to a less experienced person
- Assessing learning or professional growth

Current OpenMRS Fellowship Mentors:

- Kaweesi Joseph OpenMRS QA/Dev 4 Mentor (October 2020-December 2021)
- Moses Mutesasira OpenMRS Dev 3 Fellow/Mentor (October 2020-June 2021) Follow his fellowship journey on Talk.
- Hadijah Kyampeire OpenMRS Dev 3 Fellow/Mentor. Follow her fellowship journey on Talk.

Fellows

Fellows are mid-to senior-level technical project/product manager, developer, quality assurance specialist, or subject matter expert who is interested in expanding their knowledge and skills.

Fellows generally have:

- 2-4 years of experience in software development, project or product management, quality assurance, or subject matter expertise (i.e: terminology, standards, microfrontends, security, DevOps, etc)
- Some experience with the processes, tools, and technologies used by the OpenMRS community
- Demonstrates initiative to identify different problems and proposes effective solutions for those problems
- Dedication to the OpenMRS mission, vision, and values
- Open to exploring and applying open source principles
- Able to work independently and as a part of a team

Current OpenMRS Fellows:

- suruchi dhungana OpenMRS Product Management & Dev Fellow (November 2020-December 2021). Follow her fellowship journey on Talk.
- CLIFF GITA OpenMRS Dev Fellow (November 2020-June 2021). Follow his fellowship journey on Talk.
- Kakurutzzi Daud OpenMRS Quality Assurance Fellow (April - December 2021). Follow his fellowship journey on Talk.
- Sharif Magembe OpenMRS QA/Dev Fellow (April - December 2021). Follow his fellowship journey on Talk.
- Juliet Wamalwa OpenMRS Dev Fellow (April - December 2021). Follow her fellowship journey on Talk.

What skills can you expect to gain as a Fellow?

We want to ensure that Fellows have a clear pathway to advanced OpenMRS stages. We

To assist with this, we work with each fellow to align their professional goals with current OpenMRS Developer and Community Stages as well as specific skills that their fellowship project will build. In the coming months, we hope to include PM and QA stages as well.

How to apply

Fellowship opportunities are announced as openings become available on our OpenMRS Job Board on Talk. Fellowship and Fellow Mentor candidates are asked to complete the Fellowship Program Application and submit a cover letter and CV. The cover letter should include:

- type of fellowship you are applying for (Development, TPM, QA, SME, etc)

About Stipends

We are committed to the success of all of our Fellows and Fellow Mentors. This success relies on our ability to provide sufficient mentorship and guidance - and the ability to dedicate sufficient time and focus on their projects. During this initial phase of our Fellowship Program, stipends may be offered to Fellow Mentors to ensure that they are able to fully honor mentorship commitments. Stipends will be paid on a bi-monthly or quarterly basis to Fellow Mentors who satisfactorily reach mentorship milestones set out in a Fellowship Mentor Plan. Fellowship Mentors may choose to waive any offered stipend. Unused stipends will go towards our community’s infrastructure and operations.
• project(s) that you are interested in,
• experience working on open source projects,
• your technical experience,
• professional development goals, and
• any other information that you believe is relevant.

For more information about the OpenMRS Fellowship Program, please contact Jennifer Antilla.