

EA Operations Slack

Membership criteria & how to join / invite people

About the space

The EA Operations Slack is a community of people working in operations at effective altruism organisations. It has around 900 members as of August 2024.

The admins see the “path to impact” of the space as being to improve the quality of operations work done on impactful projects, by facilitating the exchange of operations-related advice and insights between people working on such projects.

The current active admins of the space are Amrit Sidhu-Brar, Sawyer Bernath, and Joseph Lemien. They can be contacted via DM on Slack, or at admins@ea-operations-slack.org.

How to join / invite people

To join this space, or to nominate someone else for membership:

1. **Review the membership criteria** [below](#) to check that you're eligible.
 - If you're not sure, it's fine to go ahead and invite them anyway and the admins will make a decision
2. **Fill in this** [application form](#)
 - The admins aim to get back to all applications within 1 week, though as we do this on the side of our full-time operations work, it sometimes takes a little longer!

Membership criteria

The official membership criteria of the workspace are as follows:

People can be members if they are doing significant paid work for EA-aligned organisations, or have been so recently and are still actively contributing to the EA community. This would include contractors/freelancers, paid local group organisers, and non-ops employees (though discussion should still be about ops); but in general exclude volunteers and people working at organisations that are clearly unconnected to EA. We will also accept board members of EA-aligned charities.

Additionally, we're happy to make exceptions to these criteria on a case-by-case basis, for example for volunteers doing particularly high-commitment or high-complexity operations work, or people working on operations in general nonprofits who have a lot to contribute to the workspace. Anyone who has a good

reason why they'd like to join but doesn't meet the criteria above is therefore welcome to request to join, and their request will be reviewed by the admins.

(Where “EA” refers to [effective altruism](#).)

The criteria were chosen to be reasonably restrictive. This is because the admins and membership felt that this was important in order to foster a high-trust environment where those working on impactful projects will feel able to share their operational questions openly, in line with the space’s path to impact of improving the quality of operations work that gets done at EA organisations.

If you don’t yet meet the membership criteria, for example if you’re interested in working in operations roles at an EA organisation but aren’t yet in such a role and are looking for advice, the [EA Operations Facebook group](#) may suit your needs as a more open community. The [Operations tag](#) on the EA Forum also contains many resources you may find useful.

Criteria for organisations

In order to determine whether organisations meet our bar of EA-alignedness (for determining whether their staff will be admitted to the workspace), the admins look for signals of approval from or involvement with the EA community, such as:

- Received a grant (ideally a general support grant, seed grant, or grant to the program the applicant works on) from, or are a recommended charity of, or incubated or fiscally sponsored by, by some clearly EA source (EA Funds, OpenPhil, FTX Future Fund, Charity Entrepreneurship, Rethink Charity, Effective Ventures, GiveWell, ACE etc.).
- A post by the org about its work has been well-received on the EA Forum (e.g. getting a significant karma score)
- Have presented at an EA Global
- Founders had deep previous EA involvement (e.g. worked at a clearly EA org) and founded the org based on EA considerations

We use the above signals because, as operations staff ourselves, we don’t have the skills or capacity to independently evaluate organisations’ credentials. We acknowledge that some highly impactful and EA-aligned projects may not have such signals yet, and are open to considering other factors that seem equivalent.