

# Becoming a Microsoft Excel MVP

What the program is, what it isn't, and how to actually get in.

## 01 GET NOMINATED

You can't apply directly. A current MVP or a Microsoft employee has to nominate you. That's why building real relationships in the community matters more than any checklist.

Don't make the mistake of asking around *about* becoming an MVP. Show, over time, that you're adding value. Nominations follow naturally.

## 02 PAY IT FORWARD

The program rewards meaningful contribution without expectation of direct reward. Practical ways to do it:

- **Blog posts.** High-quality writing on Excel tips, tricks, and best practices.
- **Free webinars, meetups, livestreams.** Sharing knowledge openly.
- **Community Q&A.** Tech Community, Stack Overflow, Reddit, LinkedIn.
- **Bug reports and feature requests.** Detailed, thoughtful feedback to product teams.
- **Educational video.** YouTube and LinkedIn content that simplifies hard topics.

A note on strategy: going viral isn't a dependable path to MVP status. Sustained community engagement is what compounds over time.

## 03 APPLY AND WAIT

After a nomination, you submit a detailed application: dates, activity types, audience reach, tangible impact.

Microsoft gives minimal feedback on rejections, and the cycle is roughly a year. If you don't make it, treat the wait as a chance to deepen contributions.

## 04 WHAT YOU ACTUALLY GET

- **Direct line to product teams.** Access to Excel PMs and engineers, and real influence on the roadmap.
- **Mentorship and networking.** Informal but generous; veteran MVPs help newcomers find their footing.
- **Annual MVP Summit.** Redmond, WA. Travel isn't covered, which is a real barrier. Plenty of virtual events fill the gaps.
- **Software perks.** Free Office 365 licenses, access to premium tools, occasional discounts.

### THE HONEST TAKE

Most hiring managers either don't know the MVP designation or treat it as a vanity metric. The people who deeply respect it (fellow Excel pros) are usually self-sufficient and not your customers. That's the catch-22.

## 05 IS IT WORTH IT?

If your motivation is intrinsic (helping people, reducing their stress around data, making work less painful), the title complements the mission. It will not, on its own, generate business.

For me, the real value is deeper community, sharper thinking, and influence inside a tool millions of people rely on every day.