

TO: Junior Majors in Economics

FROM: Sarah Jacobson, Economics Department Director of Research

RE: Class of 1960 Scholars in Economics

On behalf of the Economics Department, I invite you to apply to the Class of 1960 Scholars program.

Class of 1960 Scholars participate in a series of specially designed seminars presented by leading economists from academic, public policy, and nonprofit institutions. Participation in these seminars will provide you with opportunities to read and discuss cutting-edge research, to have personal conversations with high-profile researchers who visit the department, and to experience the intellectual give-and-take that is an essential element of the research process. Research seminars will give you a chance to engage with economic research in a setting that is quite different from the normal classroom environment. Coffee hours, lunches, and post-seminar dinners will allow you to interact informally with the visiting speakers, along with members of the Williams faculty.

Those chosen for the program join in their junior spring and participate for three semesters (junior spring, senior fall, and senior spring). If you are off-cycle, you should apply the December before your senior year starts, and you will be in the program in spring and fall. There are typically four to five seminars per semester and you are encouraged to attend all of them if you can. The seminars span a wide range of topics within economics. The 75-minute talks are usually held at 4 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays.

Being a Class of 1960 Scholar requires a certain level of commitment. We do not require that you attend all of the talks, but you are expected to attend at least five of them over the course of the three semesters. In cases where papers are circulated in advance, we expect you to have read the paper before the seminar, and to come to the seminar prepared to ask questions or offer comments. Study abroad and extracurricular commitments need not stand in the way of your participation, but you should not apply unless you can commit to attending at least five of the seminars and at least two of the post-seminar dinners over the rest of your Williams career. When possible, we will organize seminars, meals, and opportunities to meet visiting speakers at other times, but these will be the exception rather than the rule.

There is no minimum GPA requirement for the program. Academic achievement is one criterion for admission, but the invitation to apply is open to any economics major who expresses interest, enthusiasm, and a commitment to active and regular participation. While this is an especially worthwhile experience for those contemplating writing an honors thesis or pursuing graduate school in economics or related fields, it will be a rewarding and fun experience for anyone interested in delving more deeply into economics.

If you are interested in the program, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/iENJJWVBv5k3hc3A9> by Fri Dec 16, 2022 at 5pm Eastern. If you have any questions, please contact me at saj2@williams.edu.