



## **BFI Launches Summer Institute to Expand Diversity in Economics**

*New program for undergraduate students will provide opportunities to learn about frontier research, network with leading scholars, and receive mentoring support.*

The **Becker Friedman Institute for Economics (BFI)** at the University of Chicago has launched a first-of-its-kind, three-week **Summer Institute, Expanding Diversity in Economics**, designed to attract extraordinary students from colleges and universities around the country who would not otherwise consider studying economics. The goal is to diversify the pool of undergraduate students majoring in economics, who may go on to a graduate program of study or a career drawing on this important set of skills.

“We decided that we wanted to do something about economics’ diversity problem and that there was no better time than now for doing it,” said Michael Greenstone, the Milton Friedman Distinguished Service Professor in Economics and Director of BFI. “Economics is such a powerful tool for understanding the world, but our potential contribution is limited if only a subset of undergraduates choose it as a major. Through its dynamic curriculum and supportive community, we believe the Summer Institute will make economics appealing to a broader set of students who down the line will pose and answer questions that expand the field and our understanding about the world.”

Each year, BFI will accept up to 40 participants to the Summer Institute, who will engage in daily lectures and skill-building coursework as well as other activities to promote networking. The program is open to undergraduate students age 18 and older from accredited institutions. There are no program fees and participants will be given a stipend to support their active engagement in the Summer Institute.

Participants will be exposed to a range of economic topics taught by a broad group of economists from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics, and the Harris School of Public Policy, in addition to high-profile outside guests. The Summer Institute will also promote a mentoring network, linking participants with faculty for guidance and support, and providing opportunities for ongoing research experience during the academic year.

"We look forward to exposing these promising students to the world-class faculty and research at the University of Chicago and all that economics has to offer," said Madhav Rajan, Dean of the Booth School of Business and George Pratt Shultz Professor of Accounting. "In recent years, we've seen other STEM fields achieve success in increasing their diversity. Given the stakes, we look forward to addressing this challenge in economics at the earliest stages of matriculation."

BFI's Expanding Diversity in Economics has been made possible through partnerships with the Booth School of Business and Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics, as well as generous support from Northern Trust.

"There's no question that economics needs a more diverse set of perspectives," said Jason Tyler, Chief Financial Officer at Northern Trust and a member of the BFI Advisory Council. "This effort by BFI engages students early in their college careers, and that is crucially important as we seek to broaden the range of talent entering a field with a long track record of opening doors."

The Summer Institute will cover three main areas of study drawing on the expertise of University of Chicago faculty:

- **Building an Economic Toolkit.** Drawing from UChicago's unique approach to economics education, participants will build an analytical toolkit through coursework on Price Theory.
- **The Power of Combining Economics and Data.** Participants will learn how the widespread availability of data is transforming the kinds of observations economics can make about the world.

- **Using Economics to Answer Big Questions.** Woven into the curriculum will be an interactive luncheon series led by UChicago scholars who produce cutting-edge research on a range of topics, such as climate change, poverty and inequality, and global trade.

The deadline for applications is March 14, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and public safety concerns, the 2021 Summer Institute will be held virtually. For more information and to apply visit: [bfi.uchicago.edu/summer-institute](https://bfi.uchicago.edu/summer-institute).



Expanding Diversity  
in Economics  
A UCHICAGO SUMMER INSTITUTE



## Applications for Undergraduate Students Now Open

*Expanding Diversity in Economics is a new University of Chicago Summer Institute designed to identify and support talented undergraduate students from a broad range of backgrounds interested in the study of economics.*

**Learn More and Apply**  
[bfi.uchicago.edu/summer-institute](https://bfi.uchicago.edu/summer-institute)



**July 18 - August 6, 2021**  
University of Chicago  
Apply by March 14, 2021

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