The Becker Friedman Institute’s Expanding Diversity in Economics (EDE) Summer Institute is a first-of-its-kind program launched in 2021 targeting early undergraduate students for exposure to economics. Our goal is to diversify the pool of students majoring in economics, who may go on to a graduate program of study or a career drawing on this important skill set.

About the Summer Institute
Each year, EDE participants are selected through a highly competitive process to engage in a three-week summer institute designed to build skills through daily lectures and other activities to inspire learning and promote networking. With exposure to more than 20 UChicago faculty and outside speakers, EDE excites students about the range of opportunities in economics.

2023 EDE participants will begin on UChicago’s campus with three days of intense quantitative skill-building, including training in Stata programming. Participants will then begin two weeks of coursework led by UChicago faculty, receiving instruction in microeconomic analysis and introductory econometrics supplemented by TA office hours to provide support and deeper understanding of concepts. Participants will also have the opportunity to hear from a range of experts in the field, in addition to private sector and policy leaders.

The last week of 2023 EDE programming will send participants to Washington, DC, for a close look at current issues in fiscal and monetary policies and the people and institutions who make them. The DC week is hosted by the Brookings Institution’s Hutchins Center, whose mission is to improve the quality and efficacy of fiscal and monetary policies and public understanding of them.

We believe in the importance of socio-economic diversity. Understanding the opportunity cost for students accepted to the EDE Summer Institute, BFI provides a stipend of $1,200. Participants who are Pell Grant recipients receive a stipend of $2,400. BFI covers costs of travel, housing, and group activities for EDE participants for on-campus programming.

Applications are now open for the 2023 Summer Program, June 8-30. The deadline to apply is February 6, 2023. Apply here: bfi.uchicago.edu/ede

EDE Summer Institute — By the Numbers
The 2021 and 2022 cohorts included 84 total undergraduate students from 49 institutions worldwide.

55% were freshmen and 36% were sophomores when applying
21% self-identified as Latino or Hispanic
44% self-identified as Black or African American
45% were first-generation college students

Over 50% were Pell Grant recipients, or have a household income under $20k/year

“Talent is dispersed widely and this program will bring a wider set of people into economics. We expect that the result will be a deeper understanding of the world that ultimately allows economics to more effectively influence the world.”

Michael Greenstone
Milton Friedman Distinguished Service Professor, UChicago; Director, BFI
The EDE Model

Building a Network
Upon completion of the Summer Institute, participants become part of the broader EDE alumni network. This network provides ongoing opportunities to engage in research, peer mentoring, and career development.

UChicago Research Assistant Program
The Research Assistant (RA) Program is one opportunity for EDE alumni to enhance their skills and experience, and prepare them for graduate work in economics.

In 2022, 14 inaugural cohort alumni were selected for paid research assistant positions with UChicago faculty.

EDE Participant Reflections

“I have participated in various programs tailored to help me on my journey to obtain a degree in economics [and] no other program has been as pivotal as EDE in confirming my love for Economics and validating that I do want to get my PhD in Economics.”

Yetunde Oshagbemi
2022 EDE Participant; University of Maryland Baltimore County

“I felt really included within economics, because usually when I speak to a professor, they don’t come from the same background as me. It was very cool to see that in the program.”

Karen Gracia
2021 EDE Participant; Texas A&M University

“EDE exceeded [my] expectations... I especially liked that I had access to exceptional UChicago faculty and speakers who were happy to talk about their work and the economics PhD process. I would strongly encourage any undergraduate interested in economics to apply.”

Chukwuka Odigbo
2022 EDE Participant; Dartmouth College

“EDE changed the way I thought about my career path and the professional opportunities I might have to impact my community. As a current HBCU student, I want to be somewhere [for graduate school] that I feel is an inclusive place, and I’m getting that from UChicago.”

Jasmine Amaniampong
2021 EDE Participant; North Carolina A&T State University

Program Support

Contact Us
For more information, visit bfi.uchicago.edu/ede or contact summerecon@uchicago.edu.