The hallmark program of EDE is the annual Summer Institute co-organized with the Hutchins Center on Fiscal & Monetary Policy at Brookings. The EDE Summer Institute is a three-week program held in Chicago and Washington, DC, designed to build skills through activities including daily lectures, technical training, and group projects. More broadly, the program aims to excite students about the field’s many real-world applications, through exposure to UChicago faculty, Brookings experts and outside experts with visits to critical institutions leveraging economics in Chicago and DC. The EDE Summer Institute educates students about the broad range of opportunities in economics.

More than 650 students applied for the 45 slots in the 2023 cohort, and 97% of those accepted chose to matriculate. The cohort’s average GPA was 3.8 (out of 4.0). Daily course instruction by UChicago economists from Chicago Booth, the Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics, and the Harris School of Public Policy focused on microeconomic inquiry and the application of economics. The curriculum was further enhanced in Washington, DC, with guest speakers and visits to government, private sector, and international development institutions. Past speakers include Nobel laureates Ben Bernanke, Doug Diamond, James Heckman, and Richard Thaler, Federal Reserve Board Governor Lisa D. Cook, *Freakonomics* author Steven Levitt, Booth scholar Marianne Bertrand, Northern Trust CFO Jason Tyler, Ariel Investments Chairman John Rogers, and more.

We believe in the importance of socio-economic diversity, and provide a stipend of $1,200 for successful completion of the program. Participants who are Pell Grant recipients receive a stipend of $2,400. We cover costs of travel, housing, and group activities for EDE participants for on-campus programming.

**About the Summer Institute**

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**EDE Summer Institute — By the Numbers**

*The 2021, 2022, and 2023 cohorts totaled 128 undergraduate students from 62 institutions worldwide. Of all cohorts:*

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<th>Statistic</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<td>92% were freshmen or sophomores when applying</td>
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<td>23% self-identified as Hispanic or Latinx, Native American, or Alaska Native</td>
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<td>40% self-identified as Black or African American</td>
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<td>67% were female</td>
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<td>40% were first generation college students</td>
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<td>60% were Pell Grant recipients or had a household income under $20k/year</td>
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“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 Expanding Diversity in Economics (EDE) program is a first-of-its-kind initiative launched by the Becker Friedman Institute for Economics (BFI) at UChicago to expose early undergraduate students to economics. Our goal is to diversify the pool of students who major in economics, pursue the field in graduate school, or apply it during their careers.
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 both 2022 and 2023, 14 alumni were matched for paid RA positions with UChicago faculty.

“.We’re concerned that too many undergrads get turned off by economics because it doesn’t seem relevant to their lives or their politics or their concerns about our society. Our goal is to show them that if you want to change the world, if you want to make a contribution to making society more equitable and prosperous, that being an economist is one way to do that and we want to demonstrate that to them with real life examples.”

David Wessel
Director, The Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy, Brookings

Participant Feedback: 2023 Cohort
Please note that all survey feedback was submitted anonymously.

100% reported that they would recommend EDE to friends or others who might be interested in the study of economics.

100% said they were satisfied with the topics covered during the University of Chicago and Washington, DC, programming.

97% were satisfied with their EDE summer experience.

97% said the EDE program met or exceeded their expectations.
**EDE Participant Reflections**

“EDE made me realize how economics lives in our everyday lives. Learning from professors and peers from similar backgrounds made the program particularly impactful and an unforgettable experience.”

Yetunde Oshagbemi
2022 EDE Participant; University of Maryland Baltimore County

“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.”

Karen Gracia
2021 EDE Participant; Texas A&M University

“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.”

Lea Reisel
2022 EDE Participant; University of Southern California

“My experience with economics so far has been strictly as a vehicle for business and finance. EDE introduced me to economics as a field of study in its own right, and I haven’t been able to stop thinking about it since.”

Corinne Salter
2023 EDE Participant; Spelman College

“EDE has not only grown my confidence in my potential, but has provided me a community of support and genuine connection. I have been able to meet and experience such an elite group of people at such an early point in my career.”

Dylen “Doss” Richmond
2023 EDE Participant; Morehouse College

“EDE was an amazing experience. As a journalism major, I interacted with people that I normally wouldn’t, and the chance to receive guidance and mentorship from a nationally renowned economic journalist was unimaginable before EDE.”

Karen Gracia
2021 EDE Participant; Texas A&M University

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Brayan Lopez Llamas
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**Program Support**

**Contact Us**

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

**VISIT ONLINE**