2019 Price Theory Summer Camp

Each year, the Becker Friedman Institute’s Price Theory Summer Camp brings top PhD students from around the world to campus through a highly competitive process. The camp provides a deep dive into Chicago Price Theory, which emphasizes the application of basic economic tools to important problems in society, public policy, and economics.

During the one week program, students hear lectures from camp organizers Kevin Murphy and Steve Levitt, as well as a series of “Chicago-style” seminars in which a wide range of Chicago faculty present research in progress. Throughout the week, students also enjoy a number of unique opportunities to network, socialize, and enjoy the city of Chicago.

Participants also work on problem sets in workshops and have opportunities to discuss their own work with some of the world’s leading economists. Frequent guest lecturers include Edward Lazear, The Davies Family Professor of Economics at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and Jesse Shapiro, the Eastman Professor of Political Economy at Brown University. The camp aims to support PhD students in examining behavior through the lens of markets, prices, and incentives, preparing them to work creatively in this productive vein.

In all, nearly 350 scholars have participated in the Price Theory Summer Camp since 2007 and, of those, approximately 270 have completed their PhD and entered the workforce, forming a robust network of economists steeped in Price Theory.

“Chicago Price Theory holds the idea that economic tools provide a powerful analysis that can explain what is going on in the world; the range of topics is diverse and virtually limitless.”

Steve Levitt, Price Theory Initiative Faculty Co-Director

Generous support for this program has been provided by MarrGwen and Stuart Townsend. For more information about this initiative, visit: bfi.uchicago.edu/initiative/price-theory.
Where are they now?

The Price Theory Summer Camp creates a network of scholars who go on to a range of professions. Of the 350 Price Theory alumni:

- 270 Price Theory alumni in the workforce
- 75% Pursued careers in academia
- 50% Work in top 50 academic programs
- 20% Work in top 15 academic programs
- 15% Work in the private sector
- 10% Work in government or with a multi-lateral institution

Praise for the program

“I had a wonderful experience at the camp, making connections with students from other schools. Additionally, one of the lectures that week led directly to one of my dissertation chapters! I recommend the camp to all of my PhD students.”

Matthew Notowidigdo, Associate Professor, Northwestern University; 2008 Price Theory Participant

“The way that Professors Levitt and Murphy encouraged us to think about price theory was inspiring, especially how they urged us to connect our work with underlying principles and foundations.”

Elise Marifian, PhD student, University of Wisconsin, Madison; 2019 Price Theory Participant

“The summer camp really opened my eyes to the power of price theory, giving me a valuable toolkit through which I hope to creatively and convincingly address tough social problems.”

Chika Okafor, PhD student, Harvard University; 2019 Price Theory Participant